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# Cong, film fraternity rally behind Vijay

**Centre blamed for Jana Nayagan not getting censor board clearance**

*Page 10*

**State**

**JD(S) merging with BJP will help Cong, says Shivakumar** P.8

**Nation** P.10

**Didn't order removal of every street dog: SC**

**State**

Belagavi sugar factory blast toll rises to 7 P.9

**State**

CM: Will oppose Malayalam Bill P.8

# Mamata vs ED & BJP after raids on TMC's consultant

**Bengal CM storms into raid locations, walks away with files & gadgets**

**ANIRBAN BHAUMIK**
KOLKATA, DHNS

Raids by the Enforcement Directorate at the office of political consultancy firm I-PAC and the residence of its head in Kolkata on Thursday escalated the political slugfest between the ruling Trinamool Congress and Opposition BJP ahead of the Assembly elections in West Bengal.

High drama prevailed on Thursday noon after Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee stormed into the residence of Prateek Jain, the head of the I-PAC, and the office of the consultancy firm, and left with files and electronic devices, even while the ED officials were continuing searches in both locations in connection with a money laundering case linked to alleged coal smuggling.

She took a not-so-veiled dig at Union Home Minister Amit Shah, calling him a "nasty" and "naughty" home minister, and accusing him of getting the ED to raid the I-PAC, which is engaged by the TMC to provide political consultancy, to collect information about her party's strategy for the upcoming elections.

TMC members stage a demonstration against the ED raid at the office of I-PAC, in Kolkata, on Thursday. PTI

**WHAT THEY SAID**

**ED:** No political angle, searches were peaceful until Mamata arrived at the scene

**TMC:** Centre using ED to collect information about party's strategy for upcoming elections

**BJP:** CM's action illegal. Mamata trying to shield criminals and tamper with evidence

"Is it the duty of the ED? They are taking all our party documents. Naughty and nasty home minister. The home minister, who cannot protect the country, is attempting to take away our party documents. If I raid the BJP party office, what will happen then?

**MAMATA BANERJEE,** Chief Minister

The ED has moved the Calcutta High Court, alleging that the chief minister, as well as police officers and other bureaucrats of the state government, who accompanied her, took away documents and electronic evidence.

The BJP lashed out at the TMC supremo, accusing her of interfering in an ongoing investigation by a central agency. Samik Bhattacharya, the state BJP president, said the CM's action made it clear that her party was steeped in corruption and criminal activities.

On the other hand, the TMC has announced a rally in Kolkata on Friday.

▸ **ED raids, Page 9**

# K'taka to move SC against Centre's rural job law

**Cabinet resolution slams G RAM G Act, says it 'violates' right to work**

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Cabinet decided on Thursday to move the Supreme Court against the Viksit Bharat -- Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act that replaced the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The Cabinet passed a resolution, where it "unanimously decided not to accept the Act and challenge the same in the court of law".

Briefing reporters, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil explained that alongside the legal battle, they would also take the issue to the "people's court".

Explaining that the Cabinet had consulted the Advocate General (AG) on the legalities, Patil said: "Panchayats have been disabled to create their own assets. They also want to go to the Supreme Court. Panchayats have approached the state government, and possibly the state government will take a decision in a day or two."

The minister slammed the new legislation as a "dark Act", stating that it helps contractors and doesn't protect workers' interest.

Patil felt the VB-G RAM G Act "takes away" the Right to Work protected by the Constitution and MGNREGA.

"Through MGNREGA, we were creating assets at the panchayat levels. It could be the compound wall of a primary school in a village, making a playground and so on. This will now be stopped by this dark G RAM G Act," minister Patil said.

▸ **MGNREGA, Page 9**

**MGNREGA vs VB — G RAM G**

Comparison of costs incurred under MGNREGA over 5 years with costs if VB – G RAM G had been in place

| Year | MGNREGA (Karnataka share) | VB-G RAM G (Karnataka share) | Loss to state due to new scheme |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2011-22 | Rs 450.54 cr | Rs 2,497.57 cr | Rs 2,047.03 cr |
| 2022-23 | Rs 395.28 cr | Rs 2,724.58 cr | Rs 2,329.3 cr |
| 2023-24 | Rs 500.87 cr | Rs 2,366.36 cr | Rs 1,865.49 cr |
| 2024-25 | Rs 433.27 cr | Rs 2,418.39 cr | Rs 1,985.12 cr |
| 2025-26 | Rs 450.00 cr | Rs 2,320.00 cr | Rs 1,870.00 cr |

**Spl session on MGNREGA**

**CM Siddaramaiah announced that a special session of the state Legislative Assembly would be convened to pass a resolution demanding the restoration of the UPA's MGNREGA scheme.**
**Details on Page 8**

## Estranged wife free to abort pregnancy, rules Delhi HC

**ASHISH TRIPATHI**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Forcing a woman to continue with her pregnancy violated her bodily integrity and aggravated mental trauma, the Delhi High Court has said while discharging an estranged wife from a criminal case filed by her husband for medically terminating her 14-week foetus.

Upholding a woman's autonomy to seek abortion in case of marital discord, Justice Neena Bansal Krishna said the petitioner-wife could not be said to have committed an offence under Section 312 (causing miscarriage) of the Indian Penal Code in the present case.

The court said that freedom of choice was a facet of personal autonomy and control over reproduction was a basic need and right of all women.

The bench found the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTPA) did not require a pregnant woman to obtain her husband's permission for termination of pregnancy, and the "golden thread" running through the enactment was the concern for "grave injury" to a woman's physical and mental health.

▸ **Delhi HC, Page 9**

**'Strangers can't be part of domestic cruelty case', P4**

## Trump favours 500% tariff on all buyers of Russian oil

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

US President Donald Trump has "greenlit" a sanctions bill that could impose 500% tariffs on countries buying Russian oil, giving him "tremendous leverage" against countries like China and India to stop them from purchasing cheap oil from Moscow.

Senator Lindsey Graham said he had a "very productive meeting" with Trump at the White House on Wednesday, during which the President "greenlit" the bipartisan Russia sanctions bill that has been in the works for months.

"This bill will be well-timed, as Ukraine is making concessions for peace, and Putin is all talk, continuing to kill the innocent. This bill will allow President Trump to punish those countries who buy cheap Russian oil, fuelling Putin's war machine," Graham said in a post on X.

"This bill would give President Trump tremendous leverage against countries like China, India and Brazil to incentivise them to stop buying the cheap Russian oil that provides the financing for Putin's bloodbath against Ukraine," he said.

Graham expected a "strong" bipartisan vote on the bill, "hopefully as early as next week".

The bill proposes secondary tariffs and sanctions on "countries that continue to fund Putin's barbaric war".

## BDA conducts demolition drive

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The BDA on Thursday demolished 22 buildings which it said had come up illegally at Thanisandra. The property is said to be worth Rs 80 crore. Locals said they were not given any notice.
**Details on Page 2**

## 'EMI-income imbalance pushing people to more loans, harassment'

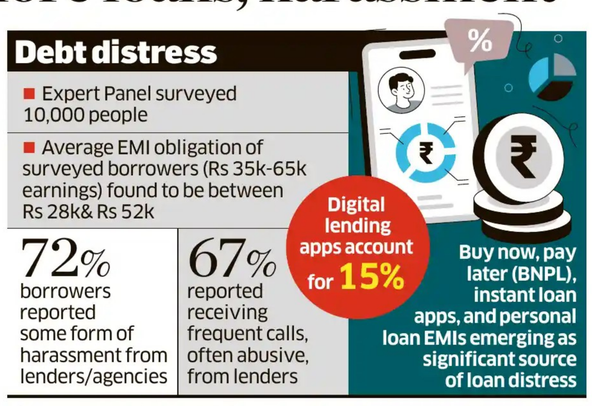
**UMA KANNAN**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Significant imbalance between earnings and monthly loan instalments is adding financial stress on Indian families, forcing them to borrow more and face harassment from creditors, according to a survey involving financially distressed people conducted across the country.

At least 72% of the borrowers surveyed by Expert Panel, which specialises in cases related to loan defaults and harassment by recovery agents, reported some form of harassment from recovery agencies, while 67% reported receiving frequent calls, often abusive, from lenders.

The report said financially stressed individuals with an average monthly income of Rs 35,000 - Rs 65,000 range have an average EMI obligation between Rs 28,000 and Rs 52,000. This imbalance in income-EMI ratio is forcing them to credit card rotation, additional loans, friends and family support, along with informal lending.

▸ **Loans, Page 9**


Debt distress
Expert Panel surveyed 10,000 people
Average EMI obligation of surveyed borrowers (Rs 35k-65k earnings) found to be between Rs 28k& Rs 52k
72% borrowers reported some form of harassment from lenders/agencies
67% reported receiving frequent calls, often abusive, from lenders
Digital lending apps account for 15%
Buy now, pay later (BNPL), instant loan apps, and personal loan EMIs emerging as significant source of loan distress

## Bangladesh suspends visa services in India

**DHAKA, PTI:** Bangladesh's interim government on Thursday said it has asked its key missions in India, including at Delhi, to suspend visa services over security concerns. Foreign Affairs Adviser M Touhid Hossain said that Bangladesh has also sought reversal of US visa bond requirement.

The comments came after Bangladesh's Deputy High Commission in Kolkata restricted visa services after identical moves in Delhi and Agartala. Visa services at Mumbai and Chennai missions remained operative.

**See pullout**

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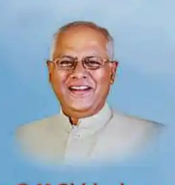
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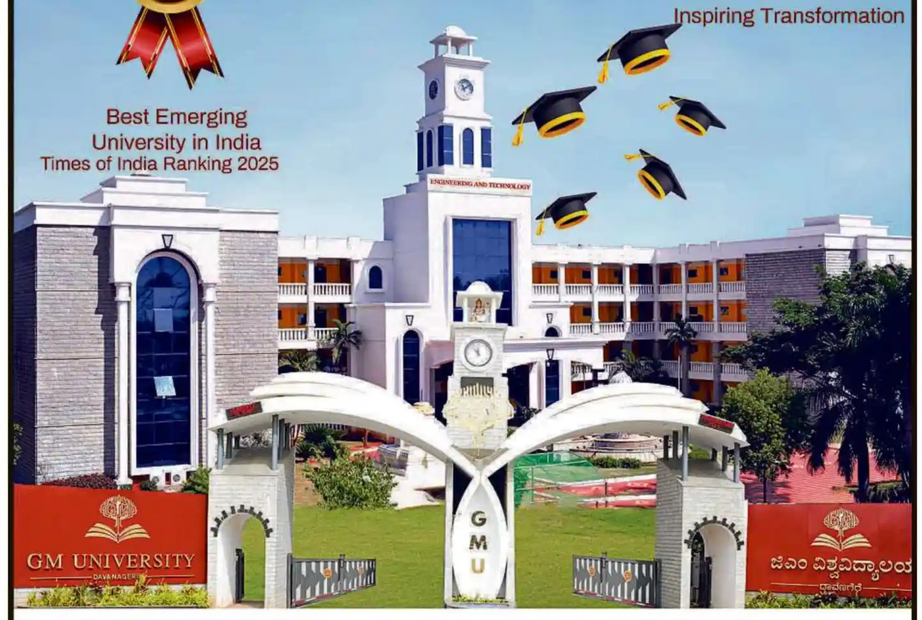


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## Green guardian who put co-existence at heart of conservation

Madhav Gadgil (1942–2026)

**KALYAN RAY**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Madhav Gadgil's love for the Western Ghats began in his childhood, thanks to his economist father who exposed the youngster to the serene beauty of emerald green forests. The love affair blossomed over the years and one of India's most eminent ecologists who died on Thursday at the age of 83, is now best remembered for a much talked-about report that he prepared for the protection of the 1,600-km mountain range along the western coast.

Gadgil headed the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel between 2009 and 2011, and submitted a report recommending protection of 75% of the area the panel defined as the Ghats spanning six states.

The recommendations were not accepted by any of the chief ministers, resulting in the formation of a second panel chaired by former Indian Space Research Organisation chairman K Kasturirangan. The Kasturirangan panel brought down the extent of protection to 37% of the Ghats, but even that remained only on paper in the last 11 years.

Within months of coming to power, the Narendra Modi-led NDA government informed the National Green Tribunal that the Gadgil panel's recommendations would not be followed and the government would go ahead with the Kasturirangan panel's suggestions. The venerated ecologist was deeply hurt but never stopped campaigning for the Ghats.

Gadgil studied mathematical ecology and fish behaviour at Harvard for six years. Unlike many others who went to study abroad, he returned and worked for two years at the Agharkar Research Institute at Pune before joining the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru in 1973 as a faculty member in the Centre for Theoretical Studies.

▸ **Gadgil, Page 9**

Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) : VB - G RAM G (विकसित भारत - जी राम जी) Act, 2025

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CBC:35101/13/0064/2526

# Airport faces backlash for reducing BMTC bus bays at Terminal 1

## Vayu Vajra drivers struggle; decline in passengers

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has come under criticism for reducing on-ground space for Vayu Vajra bus services at Terminal 1 (T1) of the Kempegowda International Airport.

Earlier, Vayu Vajra buses operated from 14 dedicated bays at T1, with an average waiting time of about 30 minutes. This has now been reduced to six bays, with buses allowed to halt for barely 10 minutes.

Since the airport opened in 2008, Vayu Vajra buses have been among the most preferred modes of airport transport owing to their accessibility and affordability. They also remain the only public transport option serving the airport.

According to the BMTC, until May 2025, T1 had two lanes for Vayu Vajra buses, with six to eight bays in each lane. This has now been cut to a single lane with six bays, after the former bus bays were reportedly taken over by cab aggregator Quick Ride.

With just a narrow lane to operate all 156 Vayu Vajra schedules across 22 routes, congestion has increased, leaving drivers struggling to maintain operations.

"The entire system is now rushed. Earlier, buses could wait for 20–25 minutes and leave the airport full. Now, they have less than 10 minutes, so they don't run at full capacity. If a passenger is even two minutes late, they must wait 30 minutes to an hour for the next bus. We are losing passengers because of this," a BMTC staff member at the airport said.

From two lanes with six to eight bays each, T1 now has just one lane with six BMTC bus bays. The former bus bays were reportedly taken over by cab aggregator Quick Ride.
DH PHOTO/ASRA MAVAD

**The reduction at T1 was made after a dedicated BMTC bus stand was established at T2. All buses that stop at T1 also stop at T2. However, BMTC data shows that about 80% of Vayu Vajra users are T1 passengers, with T2 accounting for only 1,000–2,000 daily riders.**

BMTC data shows that daily ridership, which averaged around 12,000, has dropped by about 1,000 since the reduction in bus bays.

During a *DH* visit to the airport on Thursday, several passengers were seen enquiring about schedules, but few waited for buses to arrive.

### Strain on drivers

The move has also put additional strain on drivers.

"Since we can't park at T1, we have to go all the way to P7, which is about 2–3 km away. With this constant movement, we don't even get time to eat lunch," said Hemaraju, a BMTC driver.

Other drivers cited difficulties navigating the tight space, with multiple routes now sharing single bays, leading to confusion for both drivers and passengers.

BMTC officials said efforts to restore the second lane have not yielded results. "We have held discussions with BIAL and submitted a letter outlining our concerns, but there has been no positive response," a senior BMTC official told *DH*.

A BIAL spokesperson said the reduction at T1 was made after a dedicated BMTC bus stand was established at Terminal 2 (T2). "All buses that stop at T1 also stop at T2," she said.

However, BMTC data shows that about 80% of Vayu Vajra users are T1 passengers, with T2 accounting for only 1,000–2,000 daily riders.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, who visited the airport on Wednesday to review new cab pick-up rules and overstay charges, termed the reduction of bus bays "unacceptable" and said he had taken up the issue with BIAL.

The state government holds a 13% stake in the airport.

# LED ad boards go dark amid push to revive outdoor advertising

## Operators may await regularisation under new policy

BENGALURU, DHNS

Close to 100 LED display boards illegally screening commercial advertisements across the city have gone dark in recent days, though the physical installations continue to remain atop many buildings.

Some of these blank boards can be seen at MG Road, Brigade Road and Richmond Road. Action has also been initiated in the northern part of city, which falls under Bengaluru North city corporation.

The partial compliance comes as the state government is preparing to issue a final notification to reintroduce outdoor advertising in Bengaluru after a prolonged ban.

While the LED screens have stopped displaying advertisements, it remains unclear whether the action is a permanent enforcement measure or a temporary pause ahead of their possible regularisation under the upcoming policy.

Sources in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said the LED boards were operating without authorisation by exploiting permissions meant for self-advertisement by business establishments. These permissions allow shops and offices to display their own name or branding, but not third-party commercial advertising. In practice, several advertisers were found using these approvals to run commercial advertisements without paying any charges to the corporations.

The draft outdoor advertising policy, which is now set to be finalised, includes a provision to legitimise unauthorised hoardings and digital boards by allowing operators to pay a prescribed fee and come under a formal regulatory framework. The final policy is expected to be notified soon.

"What we are seeing could well be a tactical shutdown," said a senior civic official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "If the policy allows retrospective regularisation, operators may simply be waiting to fall in line once the notification is issued."

Illegal LED ad boards on MG Road switched off, but not removed. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

The unauthorised LED boards had started mushrooming in the last two years. As per rough estimates, there are about 250 such illegal boards across the city, but officials took no action until recently.

The subject of illegal advertising boards had also come up in the assembly session, with MLAs pointing to revenue loss to the corporation.

# Yellow Line: 10-min headway from Feb; 8th train on the way to city

BENGALURU, DHNS

Namma Metro's Yellow Line is set to receive its eighth trainset shortly after Sankranthi, with the rake likely to enter passenger service around mid-February, cutting peak-hour frequency to 10 minutes or less.

The six-coach trainset was dispatched by Kolkata-based Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd (TRSL) on Thursday night, well-placed sources said.

The train is expected to arrive at the Hebbagodi depot in the city shortly after Sankranthi (January 15). After completing the mandatory 750-km trial run on the mainline, it will enter passenger service around mid-February.

Coaches of the eighth Yellow Line train being loaded onto trailers at TRSL, near Kolkata, on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is planning to induct the seventh train, which had arrived on December 18, in the coming week, a senior official said. The seventh train is currently undergoing mainline testing, which has been slowed by night-time operations. A clear picture on when the train will be ready for passenger service will emerge shortly, the official said.

The seventh train will help improve peak-hour frequency to 10-11 minutes. Non-peak hour frequency is also expected to improve.

The 19.15-km RV Road-Bommasandra metro line, which opened on August 11 last year and connects the tech hub of Electronics City, operates with six trains and has an average weekday ridership of one lakh.

With a current peak-hour frequency of 13 minutes, passengers have complained about long wait times and overcrowded trains.

# Assistant commissioner files case against man for harassing staff

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** An assistant commissioner of Bengaluru North filed a police complaint with the Halasuru Gate police, alleging harassment, intimidation, and obstruction of official work by a man who repeatedly entered the government office and created a hostile environment for the employees.

A senior police officer said the complainant, Kiran S, alleged that the accused, Mahesh Kumar alias Harish of Mattiganhalli village, Budihalli hobli, frequently visited Kandhaya Bhavana on KG Road without authorisation, used abusive language, and humiliated women staff by body shaming.

Harish allegedly disrupted lunch hours, forced staff to vacate their seats and prevented them from having their meal peacefully.

Kiran further alleged that the accused interfered in the office functioning by pressuring staff to take up unrelated work, bringing irrelevant documents, and insisting his personal matters be prioritised. He is also accused of barging into rooms, shutting doors to instil fear, pulling chairs, and obstructing staff from discharging their duties.

Harish made baseless allegations against senior officers, creating nuisance in the office.

The Halasuru Gate police have registered a case and are trying to trace the accused based on details shared by the complainant and other staff.

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# Nearly 9 lakh e-khata applications received by GBA; 99% processed

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has received close to 9.11 lakh e-khata applications, of which around 99.22% have been processed, officials said.

According to GBA, most applications are being cleared within an average of two days from the date of submission.

In a statement, Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil urged citizens to remain patient and avoid visiting corporation or GBA offices unnecessarily.

"Do not pay bribes or any money to middlemen. Please wait for three to four days, and your e-khata approval will be completed unless there is a need for mutation or corrections, which may take 10 to 15 days," Moudgil said.

Citizens can contact the GBA e-khata helpline at 9480683695 and check their application status online at the official portal: https://bbmpeaasthi.karnataka. gov.in/citizen_core/Final_ eKhatha_Status_based_on_ePID.

# Another illegal house demolition drive renders many families homeless

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on Thursday demolished around 22 structures that it said were illegally constructed in the Thanisandra area.

According to officials, houses, garages and godowns, spread across nearly two acres, were razed and the land, valued around Rs 80 crore, was reclaimed.

However, local residents alleged that the demolitions were carried out without prior notice, leaving many families homeless. Several residents claimed they had been living in the area for nearly two decades and possessed valid documents.

"We have been living here for almost 20 years. We have an e-khata, electricity connection and all property documents. They threw away our belongings and now we don't even have a place to sleep," a resident said.

Around 22 illegal structures like houses, garages and godowns were razed by the BDA at Thanisandra on Thursday.

BDA officials said the land had been notified for the Arkavathy Layout project in 2004. "After the notification, one of the land losers illegally carved out sites and sold them, even after receiving compensation from the BDA. Several buyers challenged the acquisition in court, but the verdict went in favour of the BDA. Hence, we had to recover land that belongs to the authority," a senior official said.

The official said the demolition drive was conducted after informing residents about the court order and planned action. "They were informed about the verdict and our decision to remove illegal structures. There are six houses on an adjoining plot, which will be demolished soon."

# FIR filed over 'fake news' on Ejipura flyover cracks

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Koramangala police registered an FIR against administrators of a social media page for allegedly spreading 'fake news' about cracks in the pillars of the delayed Ejipura flyover.

The complaint was filed by an official from BSCPL Infrastructure Ltd, the Hyderabad-based firm executing the 2.5-km elevated corridor project.

The FIR states that a Facebook page, 'Bengaluru Now', uploaded a photograph of a cracked pillar, claiming it was part of the ongoing flyover construction between the Ejipura-Srinivagilu Junction and Koramangala water tank.

The complainant stated the viral image does not relate to any pillar of the project. The firm alleged miscreants posted misleading information with the intent to damage the company's reputation and create public panic.

DH FILE PHOTO

The Koramangala police booked the accused under sections 336(1) and 336(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), relating to acts endangering life or personal safety and dissemination of false information.

The Ejipura flyover, often called 'Bengaluru's Stonehenge' due to its decade-long construction, has seen multiple missed deadlines.

Started in 2017, the project was recently handed over to BSCPL Infrastructure Ltd after the previous contractor, Simplex Infrastructure, failed to complete the work. The project is about 63% complete and has a revised deadline of June 2026.

Carlo Maria Polvani, Archbishop and Secretary at the Dicastery for Culture and Education, Rome, at Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University) on Thursday.

## 'Vichaarmanthan' at Kristu Jayanti

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University) hosted the 53rd edition of 'Vichaarmanthan' on Thursday, featuring Carlo Maria Polvani, Archbishop and Secretary at the Dicastery for Culture and Education, Rome.

In his keynote address, Polvani explored the intricate equilibrium between culture and education, as well as the intersection of theology and science.

He articulated that education and culture are two sides of the same coin: culture finds its fullest expression through education, while education draws its essential substance from culture.

He urged the new generation to navigate these academic and societal burdens responsibly, cautioning them not to reduce complex human progress to "simple equations", but to strive for the broader common good.

Rev Dr Fr Augustine George, Vice-Chancellor of Kristu Jayanti, and others were present on the occasion.

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: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

## Yoga speeds recovery in opioid treatment: NIMHANS study

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A recent study by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has highlighted the benefits of yoga in integrated medicine and addiction treatment.

The study involved 59 participants with opioid use disorder who received yoga along with buprenorphine treatment.

They achieved stabilisation 4.4 times faster than those without yoga. Participants also showed improvement in heart rate variability, anxiety, sleep, and pain management.

Participants admitted at NIMHANS practised yoga daily for 45 minutes, including pranayama.

The yoga group recovered in five days, while the control group took nine days.

Most participants were from Bengaluru, with others from across the country.

WEATHER ALERT

# Dip in mercury brings chill; light rain likely on Jan 10-11

BENGALURU, DHNS

The mercury has dropped across Bengaluru, bringing a chill to early mornings and late nights.

Both maximum and minimum temperatures have dipped at the city's three main weather stations operated by the India Meteorological Department.

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), in the city's north, recorded a minimum temperature of 13.2°C at 8.30 am on Thursday, a 1.2°C drop from the normal. Its maximum temperature was 25.6°C at 5.30 pm, down 2°C.

The HAL airport, in the city's east, recorded a minimum temperature of 14.4°C at 8.30 am and a maximum temperature of 26.1°C at 5.30 pm, a drop of 0.7°C and 1.3°C, respectively. The Bengaluru city observatory, located in the center, recorded a maximum temperature of 25.5°C at 8.30 am and a minimum of 14.9°C at 5.30 pm, a dip of 1.4°C and 1.1°C.

According to the IMD, a deep depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal moved west-northwest at 13 kmph and was centered at 8.30 am on January 8, about 360 km east-southeast of Sri Lanka. It is likely to move west-northwestwards across southwest Bay of Bengal during the next 36 hours and cross the Sri Lankan coast around January 9.

**Forecast**

**As a result, one or two places in Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara and Chikkaballapur districts will likely receive light rainfall on January 10 and 11.**

The winter chill drives shoppers in Bengaluru to stock up on sweaters. DH FILE

## ◆ IN THE CITY ◆

**GENERAL**

**Karnataka State Women Development Corporation:** Exhibition of products prepared by women self help groups; Sri Rama Mandira Play Ground, 53rd Cross, 4th Block, Rajajinagar; 6.30 pm.

**RV College of Engineering:** Conversation with Jeffrey D Ullman; RV College of Engineering; 3.30 pm.

**Santakavi Kanakadasa and Tatvapadakarara Study Centre:** One-day seminar on Tatvapada literature; Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University); 10 am.

**CULTURAL**

**Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum:** Screening of film 'Dinosaurs of Patagonia'; Museum premises, Kasturba Road; 11 am.

**Mandala Cultural Centre:** Inauguration of 'Dhatu' international puppet show; Mandala premises, Kanakapura Road; 4 pm.

**Malleshwaram Sangeeta Sabha Trust:** Music by MS Sheela, Apeksha A, HM Smita, Anur Anant Krishnasharma and ISN Swamy; Sri Rama Mandira; East Park Road; Malleswaram; 5.30 pm.

**Nirantara Cultural and Charitable Trust:** 'Nrutya Sambhrama' dance programme; Seva Sadana, Malleswaram; 6 pm.

**Surabharati:** Veena recital by Jayanti Kumaresh and team; Surabharati, HRBR Layout; from 6.30 pm onwards.

**RELIGIOUS**

**Sringeri Shankara Mutt:** Tyagarajara aradhane; Chamarajapet; from 8.30 am.

**Sri Sringeri Shankar Mutt:** Sangeethotsava, concerts from 5 pm onwards; Shankar Mutt Road, Shankarpuram.

## ◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

**FORECAST**

Mist

**TEMPERATURES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum | 26.0°C |
| Minimum | 15.0°C |
| Rainfall | -- |
| Humidity | 84% |
| Sunset (Jan 9) | 6:08 pm |
| Sunrise (Jan 10) | 6:44 am |
| Moonrise | 11:00 pm |
| Moonset | 10:30 am |

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

# Job seeker alleges Rs 4.78-lakh fraud over posting in Armenia

## Immigration firm booked after job promise falls through

BENGALURU, DHNS

A private immigration consultancy and its directors have been booked for allegedly cheating a job seeker of Rs 4.78 lakh by promising overseas employment and a work visa in Armenia, but failing to deliver either and refusing to refund the money.

The HSR Layout police registered an FIR on Tuesday against Morganvij Immigration Services Pvt Ltd and its directors.

The case comes months after the Protector of Emigrants (PoE) office cracked down on two unlicensed immigration consultancies, including Morganvij, for allegedly running fraudulent overseas recruitment programmes in September last year.

According to the police, the complainant, Suresh Kumar, 33, was approached in April 2025 by representatives of Morganvij, who claimed they could secure him a job as a warehouse coordinator in Armenia with a monthly salary of Rs 1.20 lakh.

The firm allegedly assured him of job placement, work visa, accommodation and food, and demanded Rs 4.78 lakh as processing fees.

Kumar reportedly made multiple payments between May and July 2025 through UPI and cash to the firm's representatives and directors, including Tulasi, Vijayalakshmi, Pavitra, Naga Charan and Nithin Shankar. He was later provided with an e-visa and air tickets and instructed to travel to Armenia.

However, upon reaching Armenia, Kumar allegedly discovered that there was no job, no valid work visa and no company or employer tie-up linked to the firm. He subsequently approached officials at the Indian Embassy, who informed him that the visa issued was a tourist visa and that he was not permitted to work in the country.

After returning to India, Kumar approached the firm on August 26 seeking a refund. The accused allegedly refused to return the money and threatened him.

Police said that earlier inspections by the PoE found Morganvij engaged in illegal overseas recruitment activities under the pretext of arranging jobs in countries such as the UAE, New Zealand, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

The accused are suspected to have cheated several others in a similar manner.

A case has been registered for cheating and criminal intimidation, and further investigation is under way.

### 'False visa, false job'

Speaking to DH, Suresh Kumar, a native of Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu, said he quit his job in Bengaluru, where he earned Rs 50,000 a month, trusting the firm's assurances.

"After reaching Armenia, I realised there was no job and no company. I was made to stay in a small, dirty room with 12 to 15 people and no food or support. Even the local PG owner told me I had been cheated," he said.

Kumar said embassy officials told him the e-visa was illegally obtained and advised him to return to India and lodge a complaint.

"I was stranded there for nearly 20 days and had to borrow money again from my parents to come back," he said, adding that at least five others were sent abroad on similar false promises.

# Euro School issues clarification after cheating complaint

## Says regulatory approvals are underway

BENGALURU, DHNS

After a police case was registered, Euro School issued a statement, citing necessary permissions and approvals.

On January 6, the Sarjapur police registered an FIR against the administrators and principal of Euro School on Gunjur Road after a parent alleged that she was cheated by the school.

"We reassure parents and stakeholders that all required permissions and approvals will be in place before the 2026–27 academic session begins. Expressions of Interest for Admissions are being sought and processed in line with standard timelines followed across the education sector.

"This is part of our counselling process that helps a parent know the options available in choosing a direction for their children's learning journey," a spokesperson said.

"We understand and appreciate parents' needs, especially regarding their children's education. Our team is engaging with the authorities concerned and is committed to completing all formalities within the stipulated framework and timelines."

The complainant told the police that after she paid Rs 25,000 as the admission fee for her daughter, the school refused her request to see details of permissions and clearances. She also claimed to have submitted an application to Education Department officials, but no action was taken.

"At Euro School, we uphold the highest standards of compliance and governance, strictly adhering to all applicable laws and regulatory requirements.

"Euro School has a strong national presence, with multiple schools operating with all requisite permissions and approvals in place.

"For the Euro School Gunjur branch in question, the necessary permissions and approvals are part of a defined regulatory process that is currently underway," the statement said.

# Actor's wife issued notice in assault case

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Girinagar police have issued a notice to the wife of Kannada actor Dhanush Raj in connection with an assault and harassment case based on his earlier complaint.

A senior police officer said Raj approached the Girinagar police on Sunday, alleging his wife, Arshita, assaulted, harassed, and threatened him. Police registered an FIR and began an investigation.

Raj alleged the dispute escalated after he travelled abroad without informing Arshita. He also claimed she threatened to end her life and falsely implicate him in criminal cases.

He further alleged that Arshita deliberately injured herself by striking her hand against a glass panel in the bathroom, and that he had been subjected to sustained harassment and intimidation. After registering the case, the police issued a notice to Arshita, summoning her for questioning.

Meanwhile, Arshita filed a counter-complaint at the women's police station, accusing Raj of dowry harassment and physical and emotional abuse.

The couple, married in Bengaluru on March 2, allegedly faced marital discord linked to dowry demands. Arshita did not comment.

# Fuel pump owner pulls gun on cab driver over one-way feud

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A fuel pump owner allegedly threatened a cab driver at gunpoint after an argument over stopping on a one-way road near a CNG filling station on Varthur Main Road, Whitefield, on Wednesday night.

Police said the incident occurred around 9.30 pm when cab driver Prajwal BS briefly stopped his Swift near the CNG station.

The pump owner reportedly asked Prajwal to roll down the window, and abused him for halting on what he claimed was his one-way stretch. The accused allegedly pulled out a pistol and threatened Prajwal.

When Prajwal said he would alert the police, the man allegedly warned he would file an atrocity case against him if reported.

Shaken, Prajwal later approached the Whitefield police and lodged a complaint.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Arms Act, 1959.

A senior police officer said the weapon was licensed and there had been a heated altercation. "We are verifying whether the pistol was shown in self-defence or to threaten the driver.

"If any violation of licence conditions is found, the licence will be cancelled," the officer said.

# Man who kidnapped, murdered six-year-old arrested in Odisha

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru police have arrested a man accused of kidnapping and murdering a six-year-old girl from the Whitefield area. The suspect was nabbed in Odisha, officials said on Thursday.

Saidulu Adavath, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Whitefield), said the accused was brought back to Bengaluru after police obtained transit remand from a local court. "Further investigation is underway," he told *DH*.

The accused has been identified as Yusuf Meer, a migrant labourer in his mid-30s from West Bengal. He lived in the same neighbourhood as the victim and her family, who are also migrant labourers from the state.

"The suspect was travelling by train with his wife and children. He was detained before he could flee further," an investigator said.

The girl, who had been missing since Monday afternoon, was found dead on Tuesday night in a dry canal in the Nallurihalli area. Both the victim's family and the accused were engaged in daily-wage work and rag-picking.

"Prima facie, it appears the child was strangled to death, as plastic ropes were found around her neck. No visible signs of sexual assault were detected," a senior police officer said.

The accused has been booked for kidnapping and murder. Police said evidence collection and local intelligence inputs helped track him down quickly.

"Once the suspect was identified and we learned he had left the city, a team was immediately dispatched to apprehend him," a police investigator said.

# Delivery executive arrested on charges of stalking, molesting college student

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A 25-year-old delivery executive was arrested for allegedly stalking, undressing in public, and molesting a college student near her home in Kothanur.

The accused, Maniruddin, 25, a native of West Bengal, was residing in Hegde Nagar.

A senior police officer said the victim (19) was returning home around 6.30 pm from college on Wednesday.

As she walked to her house, she noticed a delivery executive loitering nearby on a two-wheeler. The man allegedly followed her, stopped her, undressed in front of her, and tried to sexually assault her.

Shocked, the student raised an alarm and screamed for help.

Hearing her cries, residents rushed to the spot, but the accused fled on his two-wheeler. The student managed to photograph his vehicle and shared it with the police when filing a complaint.

Police traced Maniruddin using the vehicle number and detained him. He confessed to the crime. He was living alone in a rented house after separating from his wife. The accused has been remanded to judicial custody, police said.

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Late-SRI. M.K. KEMPA SIDDAIAH
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Radhakrishna
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Present Member of Parliament
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Celebration of FOUNDERS DAY
on 10th January 2026.
SRI. V.S. KUBER
SRI. S. GURAPPAJI
"We bow in reverence to the founder visionaries"
Presided by:
Sri. V.S. KUBER
Chairman AS & ET
Ambedkar Medical College
Time:
11.00am
Venue:
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Medical College Campus
Kadugondanahalli,
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# Neglected subways pose risk to pedestrians

## Subways across the city lack adequate lighting, security and upkeep

**SHRADDHA A K**
TEAM METROLIFE

*Metrolife* conducted a reality check to assess the condition of pedestrian underpasses in the city. Of the seven locations we visited, one was closed, four were in a dilapidated state, and two showed signs of maintenance.

Most of the underpasses were built in the early 2000s at busy junctions where pedestrian crossing was difficult.

With many being neglected, they are covered in filth, misused, or closed. As a result, pedestrians are forced to put their lives at risk when they cross traffic-heavy roads.

### Chalukya Circle

The subway at Chalukya Circle, on Palace Road, is closed. The area sees heavy pedestrian traffic, with students from nearby educational institutions constituting a significant number.

### Hebbal, Rajkumar Samadhi

In areas with heavy foot traffic, such as CBI Junction on Bellari Road, Hebbal, and the Rajkumar memorial in Nandini Layout, the subways are open 24 hours a day, with home guards on duty from 7 am to 9 pm. *Metrolife* observed that while the Hebbal flyover appeared clean, it lacked adequate security at night. There were no functioning CCTV cameras, and it was poorly lit. A guard on duty reported that the CCTV cameras had been "broken off and stolen".

### Mysore Road

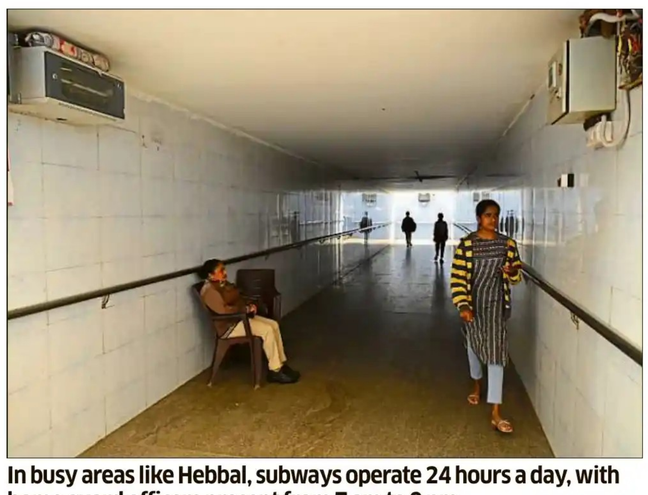
The subway on Mysore Road, near Sir Puttanna Chetty Town Hall, is among the better-maintained ones. However, the entrances are smelly, and are blocked by gunny bags filled with clothes and sugarcane waste placed by street vendors camping around the entrances. Indira, the home guard on duty, said the underpass was frequently used. The hours were recently extended on public demand — earlier, it was open from 7 am to 7 pm; it is now open till 9 pm.

### Avenue Road

The underpass leading to K R Market, K R Market Metro Station, Kalasipalya, S J P Road, Avenue Road, and Mysuru Road is neatly maintained. It is clean, equipped with multiple cameras, electrical outlets, and has twice the number of home guards. However, a common complaint is that the entrances are clogged by street vendors. Another issue with this underpass, as with the others, is that it is not wheelchair accessible. One entrance has an escalator that has reportedly been out of service for at least a year, and no other entrances are equipped with a ramp or lift. However, there is a ramp connecting the two different levels of the underpass inside.

### Nrupathunga Road

Nrupathunga Road has three subways, about 100 meters apart, leading up to Martha's Hospital. All are littered, poorly lit, and smelly.



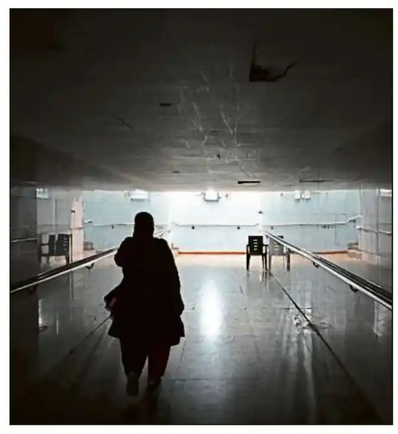
In busy areas like Hebbal, subways operate 24 hours a day, with home guard officers present from 7 am to 9 pm.

The subway station at Chalukya Circle on Palace Road has been closed for maintenance. DH PHOTOS/ B K JANARDHAN

**HOURS OPEN**
Most pedestrian underpasses operate from 7 am to 9 pm. They are monitored by home guards and are maintained by the respective Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) divisions.

**GBA SAYS...**
Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the GBA, says underpasses are closed mainly because of maintenance and safety concerns, with drugs being sold and consumed in the underpasses. "The GBA will address this in the near future," he says.

**FOB VS UNDERPASS**
Hemalatha K, superintending engineer of planning and coordination, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), says foot overbridges are better than underpasses. They are more time-efficient and easier to construct, she explains. "We can also advertise on the bridges, which helps cover the maintenance costs for each structure," she adds.



A woman navigates a dark pedestrian subway in CBI Junction, Bellari Road.

## CITY MIX

### Classical programmes on Sunday

Anirveda: A Saga of Resilience, presented by Nadha Foundation, will be held on January 11, 10 am at Meenakshi Rangamancha, Doddakallasandra, near Konanakunte Cross. The programme will feature 'Utkarsha Hanuma', a blend of music and dance forms like Yakshagana and Kathak. This will be followed by 'Dvadasha Tantra', a percussion performance, 'Achala Hara', a Kathak presentation, and more. For tickets, call 97402 91809.

### Saxophone meets ragas on Jan 14

Virtuoso American saxophonist Phil Scarff will perform with Bengaluru-based ensemble MoonArra on January 14, 7 pm, at Alliance Française Bangalore, Vasanth Nagar. Called 'Music – The Harvest Horn of Plenty', the 90-minute concert will feature original compositions rooted in Indian ragas and blended with jazz harmonies. The artistes featured include Phil Scarff (on soprano sax), Jagadeesh M R (guitars), Madhuri Jagadeesh (vocals and poetry), Jataveda Banerjee (vocals), and Adarsh Shenoy (tabla). Tickets online.

Phil Scarff

### Japanese festival this weekend

Ota Tokyo 2026, a Japanese festival, will be held at Princess Golf, Palace Grounds, on January 10, 10 am. It will include a live concert by the official singers of the anime series 'Naruto', four guest cosplayers – Mamemaye, Mioshi, Meron Nanase and Kurumi, and cosplay try-outs featuring over 100 iconic costumes. The event will also feature an Akihabara Maid Café experience, Beyblade tournament, exclusive manga workshop, Pokémon card battles, Japanese street food, and Gacha and official anime merchandise. Tickets online.

# Experts call for holistic regulation of generative AI

## X's Grok is facing flak after it was used to generate obscene images of women users

**RASHMI RAJAGOPAL**
TEAM METROLIFE

The recent X controversy has brought home to netizens the terrifying fallout of the unethical use of technology. The platform's AI tool, Grok, is in the middle of a social media storm, prompting the Central Government to step in and direct X to take down offensive content. However, the government must also focus on bringing out a more holistic policy to regulate the use of generative AI, Bengaluru-based experts say.

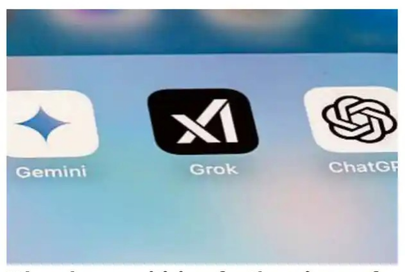
Explicit images of women users on the microblogging site are being generated by other users by feeding Grok a simple prompt. While morphed and deep fake images have been doing the rounds for years, the ease with which this is possible now is alarming. (See box)

### Suo moto cases booked

Seemant Kumar Singh, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner, says while there has not been a significant increase in such cases lately, it is quite concerning. They have been cracking down on the menace to keep such activity in check. "Even if not registered, we have been taking up suo moto cases," he says, adding, "It is not difficult for us to trace the culprit."

Agencies first try to take down offensive posts, and then find out who has done it and their motive.

The Bengaluru City Police also took to X to share awareness videos on the negative impact of generative AI.




X has drawn criticism for the misuse of its generative AI chatbot Grok.

**WHAT HAPPENED**
Towards mid-to-late December 2025, X users started misusing its AI chatbot, Grok, to generate non-consensual sexualised images of other female users, and in some cases even children. As these posts became viral, governments across the world came down strongly on the social media platform. In India, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology directed X on January 2 to remove all unlawful content and submit an action taken report within 72 hours. Though X acknowledged that the content was problematic and offered to permanently disable accounts of errant users generating obscene content, it has been reported that the government is dissatisfied with X's 'inadequate' response and has sought further clarifications.

### What law says

According to Manavi Atri, human rights lawyer, it violates Sections 75 and 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Section 75 deals with sexual harassment, with culprits facing up to three years in prison or a fine, or both. Section 79 criminalises insulting a woman's modesty through "word, gesture or act". The punishment is imprisonment for up to three years, plus a fine.

Lawyer Ashok V G points out that it can also trigger liability under multiple statutes, including provisions on obscenity and unlawful dissemination under the BNS, the Information Technology Act, and the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act.

He believes there is a fine line between artistic freedom and criminal conduct, and that regulating AI-driven abuse requires a holistic approach. He notes that measures such as mandating clear AI-generated labels, ensuring traceability of authorship for unlawful content, and strengthening law-enforcement capacity to investigate and remedy such offences are as essential as platform accountability.

"Denmark has adopted laws that extend copyright-style protection to individuals over their own features — an early step towards empowering victims to counter deepfakes. India must similarly consider proactive regulatory interventions to address a rapidly evolving phenomenon," he states.

India's AI policy remains largely aspirational, with more emphasis on innovation than on rights, safety, and due process, notes Apar Gupta, a digital rights activist. What is missing is a binding legal framework that sets clear obligations, independent oversight, and consequences for harm, he elaborates.

"Users should limit the personal data they share and be cautious about engaging with AI systems that lack transparency," he tells *Metrolife*. However, he clarifies that individual vigilance cannot substitute for systemic protections, which is why regulatory accountability remains essential.

## POPCORN

### Name game

Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif have named their son Vihaan. He played Major Vihaan Singh Shergill in the war film Uri, so. That's a nice way of reminding yourself of one of your most memorable roles. Not all roles lend themselves to such a tribute, though. Can't name your child Gabbar Singh, Mogambo, or Vicky Donor, no? Katrina Kaif is a sweet name. Out here, Kannada speakers not used to such glam names invariably got it wrong — "Katrina knife-a?" Sumnirappa, it's neither a pair of scissors nor a knife.

## EVENTS

### Expert talk

'The art and litigious life of K Venkatappa', a talk as part of The NLS Public Lecture Series, by speakers Pushpamala N and Deeptha Achar, will be held on January 12, 5 pm, at the conference hall of NLSIU Training Centre, Nagarabhavi.

### Kathak rangapravesha

The Kathak rangapravesha of Aarohi Aaliya Godhwani, disciple of Simran Godhwani, will be held on January 10, 5 pm at The Koramangala Club auditorium, Koramangala. Entry free.

### Kannada plays

Theatre group Antaranga is staging plays 'Home Rule' and 'Kannadakkobbane Kailasam', on January 12, 7.15 pm, at Kalagrama, Mallathahalli. Tickets online.

### Art show

An exhibition titled 'Continuum: Artists across Time and Space', will be held at Venkatappa Art Gallery, Kasturba Road, between January 11 and 18, 11 am to 7 pm. It will include a group show featuring works by 50-plus artistes, and solo shows by S G Vasudev and Asit Poddar.

# Hobby centre marks 25 years with exhibition

## Sheshadri M teaches painting from his home in Banashankari

TEAM METROLIFE

A hobby centre in Banashankari is hosting its first major exhibition, 25 years after it was founded. Titled 'Namana', the show pays tribute to master painters of the Renaissance period as well as celebrated Indian artists such as Raja Ravi Varma, J P Singhal, Chitraniva Chowdhury, and Sunayani Devi.

Nearly 90 artworks are on display. These include reproductions of works by these iconic artists, along with their portraits, and also a panel on illustrations created for the Indian Constitution.

Sheshadri Mokshagundam runs the centre from his home and calls it SheshadrisArtpourri. He advocates learning art through recreation. The 76-year-old explains, "When we paint from imagination, we can stop at any point and decide the work is finished. But when you recreate an iconic painting, you must do full justice to the original. It forces you to work harder and learn a great deal about the artistic process."

Though painting was Mokshagundam's childhood passion, he says he is not formally trained. While working as a liaison officer, he came into contact with popular Bengaluru painter B K S Varma. He began observing Varma at work and learnt by replicating his techniques at home. Today, Mokshagundam's forte lies in realistic paintings.

Nearly 90 works done by Sheshadri Mokshagundam and his students are on display.

Mokshagundam, who hails from an illustrious family, became an art teacher "hesitatingly". "A school once invited me to judge a drawing competition. The parents of two winners asked if I could guide their children further in art. That's when I began teaching inside my home, and later from my garage," he recalls.

While the centre has earlier held smaller exhibitions in apartments, 'Namana' marks its first large-scale show. "The idea was suggested by my well-wishers," says Mokshagundam, who will also display 20 of his works.

*Until January 12, 10 am to 7 pm, at Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi. Call 080 2667 8581.*

# Political memoir set for launch on Sat

Sunil Mohan R's political memoir 'Your Stick Shall Not Break My Strength' will be launched in the city on Saturday. Mohan is a social justice trans-activist.

The event will host a panel discussion titled 'Being and Becoming: Writing the Memoir of a Trans Man'. Mohan, who works on issues of gender and sexuality, will be in conversation with writers Gogu Shyamala and Urvashi Bhutalia, and Reshma Bharadwaj, assistant professor at Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit.

The book has evolved from a research project Mohan was working on. The project was called 'De-constructing Masculinity', and was done in collaboration with Maraa, a city-based media and arts collective. It is published by Zubaan Books, and is priced at Rs 595.

*January 10, 6.30 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. Entry free. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.*

# Looking for migratory birds? Some tips

## Experts say the number of winged visitors peaks midway through winter

**BARKHA KUMARI**
TEAM METROLIFE

While bird migration in Bengaluru begins in September, experts like ornithologist M B Krishna say the numbers of many species peak midway through the season, making January and February a good time for birding.

Nature lovers like 23-year-old Amoghavarsha Gampalahalli are already out in the field, spotting and photographing migratory birds. The wildlife content creator has been visiting lakes across Bengaluru since late December and has so far sighted rosy starlings, Blyth's reed warblers, and northern shovelers. He has been birding since his teens.

Ulhas Anand, a member of the Birdwatchers' Field Club of Bangalore (BWFCB), explains that these birds travel thousands of kilometres from Siberia through Central Asia to escape harsh winters and reach warmer regions closer to the equator. However, he says that the overall number of migratory birds has fallen by over 90% since the late 1990s. Krishna agrees, adding that to truly appreciate the scale of migration, Bengalureans must now travel as far as Channapatna, about 55 km away.

At a bird walk organised by BWFCB on Sunday, participants spotted a booted warbler. PIC: PRASANTA KUMAR DASH

**PHOTOGRAPHY BASICS**
Kakul Paul, a birder and amateur photographer, advises beginners to use DSLR cameras in aperture priority mode. This setting controls the depth of field, and allows the camera to capture more light. "It is useful during bird walks that begin at twilight and continuously move between dense foliage and open areas," she says. Shutter priority mode works better for photographing birds in flight. She recommends using a DSLR for close-up shots and a mobile phone camera for wider images of the habitat. "Go out early in the morning, as the sun is rising. Although the light isn't ideal, bird activity is at its peak. Avoid using flash," she says.

### Good spots

Krishna says woodland areas attract paradise flycatchers, brown flycatchers, grey drongos, and several warblers. These include Lalbagh Botanical Garden and Cubbon Park, as well as tree-rich institutional campuses such as Bangalore University, the Indian Institute of Science, and the University of Agricultural Sciences.

Lakes such as Saul Kere, Hesaraghatta, Jakkur, and Doddakallasandra are other notable destinations. "In open water, you can spot ducks like garganey, pintail, and shoveler. Waders such as common sandpiper, spotted sandpiper, marsh sandpiper, and greenshank stay along the shorelines. Watch for birds flying over lakes to forage, such as the common swallow," Krishna says.

On Sunday, Bijoy Venugopal led a BWFCB walk for over 40 participants at Saul Kere.

"We didn't see as many migratory ducks, especially dabbling ducks, or flycatchers as in the past, but there were plenty of black-winged stilts and wood sandpipers," he says. Anand also recommends areas around Bannerghatta National Park and Nandi Hills, and the lakes at Hoskote and Varthur.

**FREE WALKS**
BWFCB conducts free birdwatching walks across the city every Sunday. They have recently added the Turahalli forest to the schedule. Visit blrbirders.com.

**USEFUL APPS**
Anand recommends free apps like eBird and Merlin Bird ID for identifying and logging bird sightings. "On eBird, you can see Bengaluru's birding hotspots. And Merlin's microphone feature helps identify species from bird calls in real time," he says. He also suggests keeping a digital copy of 'Birds of the Indian Subcontinent' handy. It is a field guide by Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp, and Tim Inskipp.

# VTU to allow up to 20% AI-generated content in research

BENGALURU, DHNS

Acknowledging the extensive employment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by research scholars, Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has decided to allow up to 20% computer-generated content in the scholars' theses.

VTU has warned candidates of their theses being returned if the percentage of computer-generated content exceeds 20%; repeated failure to restrict computer-generated content to 20% will result in the thesis being rejected.

All guides and research scholars were intimated about the cap on computer-generated content in a circular issued by the varsity on Wednesday. Citing instances wherein AI-generated content constituted up to 70% of a thesis, VTU decided to fix the threshold at 20%.

PhD theses are cross-checked for plagiarism using dedicated software tools. The tolerance for unoriginal content in a thesis is 10%. VTU Vice-Chancellor S Vidyashankar lamented that students were turning to 'smart' work instead of hard work.

"This can be detrimental to academic interests. If we fail to check this now, it can become a serious problem," he said.

The circular also lays down guidelines for guides, who have been asked to educate and warn students about overuse of AI.

"The purpose of research is to learn and discover something new in a particular subject. But scholars are misusing AI to complete their research more quickly. This will raise questions about the propriety of the research, besides being unfair to those engaged in serious research," said VTU Registrar (Evaluation) U J Ujwal.

Conceding the ubiquity of AI in academia, Ujwal, however, stressed the need to prevent its misuse.

# Nat'l women's panel seeks report from DGP on Hubballi incident

## 'Register an FIR and conduct a thorough probe'

NEW DELHI/HUBBALLI, DHNS

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has issued a notice to the Karnataka Director General of Police (DGP) seeking an action taken report on an alleged incident from Hubballi, in which a viral video purportedly shows a woman being assaulted and her clothes torn during her arrest by police personnel.

Taking suo motu cognisance of the matter, the Commission has directed the state police to register an FIR and conduct a thorough probe. In a statement issued on Thursday, the NCW said its chairperson, Vijaya Rahatkar, strongly condemned the incident.

"Such conduct, if established, amounts to a grave violation of a woman's dignity, personal liberty and her protection from gender-based violence," the statement said.

The Commission has asked the DGP to ensure a fair, impartial and time-bound investigation, including examination of video evidence. It has also sought strict departmental and criminal action against erring officials if misconduct is found, besides ensuring medical aid, psychological support, rehabilitation and compensation to the victim as per law. An action taken report has been sought within five days.

State BJP Mahila Morcha president C Manjula and others meet the family members of Sujata Handi at Chalukya Nagar in Hubballi on Thursday. DH PHOTO

The incident allegedly occurred during a police action linked to a dispute over a voter revision exercise in Hubballi. A video of the alleged assault and stripping of a BJP woman worker surfaced on Wednesday, triggering a political blame game between the BJP and the Congress.

### BJP demands probe by sitting HC judge

Meanwhile, State BJP Mahila Morcha president C Manjula visited the woman's family at Chalukya Nagar in Hubballi on Thursday and demanded a probe by a sitting High Court judge and the NCW.

She alleged police harassment and accused Congress corporator Suvarna Kallakuntla of "goondaism". She also criticised the state government and questioned the role of the State Women's Commission.

### Corporator hospitalised

Meanwhile, Sujata's brother Mariyadas lodged a complaint with Keshwapur police alleging that Suvarna Kallakuntla and eight others assaulted his family on January 2. When police attempted to detain the corporator, she collapsed and was admitted to KMCRI, where doctors said her condition was stable. Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar has ordered a comprehensive inquiry into all related incidents between January 1 and 5.

# No need to handover Ballari clashes probe to CBI: Home minister

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Home Minister G Parameshwara on Thursday said that there was no need to hand over the probe into the Ballari clashes to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

"If our police aren't capable of investigation, only then can we speak about handing over the probe to the CBI," Parameshwara told reporters in Bengaluru.

"It has been decided in the Cabinet not to hand over any cases to the CBI. Handing it over to the CBI is also not necessary," he added.

Responding to a statement by Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy, he said, "Kumaraswamy was the chief minister of the state twice. He is the minister of Heavy Industries at the Centre. He has made a statement about me personally. I can say anything I want about him. I think that he has made the statement very responsibly and I accept it."

"I want to tell him that I have an understanding of how the legal system should be administered in the state. I have been in politics for 38 years. I have worked in many positions. I have worked with Kumaraswamy as well. So he knows my strength and personality. His statement will not be taken seriously," he added.

Meanwhile, the newly appointed SP Suman Pannekar assumed charge in Ballari on Thursday.

In connection with two cases related to the recent clashes, notices have been issued to a total of 67 persons summoning them for inquiry. They include 33 BJP leaders and workers, such as Janardhana Reddy, Somasekhara Reddy and B Sriramulu, and 34 Congress members, including Satish Reddy, Chanal Shekhar, Nara Bharath Reddy, Nara Pratap Reddy and Nara Suryanarayana Reddy.

# Visit schools, colleges to create awareness about effects of social media, minister tells cops

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar on Thursday asked the police personnel to visit schools and colleges four days a week and create awareness among students about effects of social media and to protect them from exploitation.

She was speaking after inaugurating a district-level officers' workshop on 'Children's Online Safety', organised by Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights in association with Child Fund India.

The minister said, "Police officials should create awareness about the negative part of social media. Various departments, including the police department and the education department, should invest in the all-round development and protection of children and their rights."

According to the minister, a report stated that 78% of children from rural areas are addicted to mobile phones, laptops, tabs and computers and other gadgets. "Such addictions at a young age are causing crimes against women and girl children. Steps must be taken to prevent this," she added.

The minister also highlighted that children aged 14 to 18 were the most getting addicted to social media.

"Though an inter-departmental committee, comprising Departments of Law, Education, Health and Rural Development, has been formed, the online crimes, crimes against women and children have not reduced," Hebbalkar added.

# From napkins to cups: State revamps menstrual hygiene scheme

BENGALURU, DHNS

From the next academic year, the Karnataka government will distribute menstrual cups to girls in classes 9 to 12, aiming to make menstruation more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

According to a government order, 19,64,507 girls in classes 6 to 12 are beneficiaries of the Shuchi Programme 2025–26. Previously, the government provided sanitary napkins.

The government is procuring 10,38,912 menstrual cups through Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (KSMSCL). Sanitary napkins will also be provided to class 9 to 12 girls for three months to help with the transition and will continue for class 6 to 8 students.

Menstrual cups were introduced as a pilot for 15,000 girls in Chamarajanagar and Dakshina Kannada. After a satisfactory response, the government decided to launch the scheme statewide, an official said.

The government will also organise awareness sessions in schools on using menstrual cups. "Young girls are more accepting of menstrual cups. We are also providing a box and a breathable bag for storage," the official said.

Dr Kavitha Kovi, Head of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, said, "Menstrual cups can be a better option if a girl is comfortable and learns to use it properly. Cups are made of body-friendly materials. They collect menstrual blood and do not absorb it. Used correctly, they are safe, ecological, economical, and handy for long hours, which usually helps teenagers with active academic or sporting routines."

"Before each period, cups need to be sterilised or disinfected. If it is too painful, one should avoid forceful insertion."

## FULL BLOOM

Children play under a blooming row of pink tabebuia trees that have painted Bengaluru in vivid hues. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

# Boseraju directs officials to classify water bodies in state

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Minor Irrigation Minister N S Boseraju directed officials on Thursday to finalise the exact number of water bodies in the state and classify them according to their respective departments.

N S Boseraju

In a meeting with officials, Boseraju pointed out that there was confusion over the status and ownership of approximately 41,849 water bodies across the state.

"This ambiguity is hindering their proper maintenance and protection. To resolve this, we must first consolidate accurate data regarding the exact number of water bodies. Inter-departmental coordination is essential for this task, and officials must act immediately," the minister said.

The meeting decided that there must be a scientific survey, following which there must be a "freeze" (finalise) on the total count of tanks in the state.

The meeting decided that once the number of tanks is finalised, the water bodies must be segregated based on the department under which they fall (Eg: Minor Irrigation, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and so on) to ensure accountability for their maintenance.

**PROVISION OF LC GATE MONITORING SYSTEM**

**E-Tender Notice No. RN-ST-34-2025-26 Dated: 05-01-2026.** E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. RN-ST-34-2025-26. Name of work:** Provision of LC gate Monitoring System in Non Interlocked Mechanical Lifting Barriers in Rangiya Division. **Tender Value:** ₹1,64,95,052.71/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹2,32,500/-. **Date & Time of closing of tender:** At **15.00** hrs. **& opening at 15.30** hrs. on **06-02-2026** at Sr. DSTE/ Rangiya Jn. office. The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

**DSTE, Rangiya**
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**
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**ELECTRICAL TRD WORK IN KATIHAR DIVISION**

**Tender Notice No.:** EL_TRD_55_25-26; **Dated:** 02-01-2026; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Tender No.: EL_TRD_55_25-26; Name of Work:** Electrical TRD work in connection with "Provision of Electronic Interlocking system in place of conventional panel interlocking system at Radhikapur of Katihar Division". **Advertised Tender Value:** ₹22,65,988.45/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹45,300/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **15:00** hrs. and **opening** at **15:30** hrs. on **27-01-2026**. Complete information alongwith the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to **15:00** hrs on **27-01-2026** in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

**Sr. DEE(G & Chg), Katihar**
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**
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**S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER**

e-Tenders are invited by Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer(Co)/Kharagpur-721301, S.E. Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works and will be opened at 12.00 hrs. **Sl. No. & e-Tender Notice No.; Description of works; Tender Value; EMD : (1) ST-OT-CCTV-LCGate-KGP, dated 07.01.2026;** Signal & Telecom. portion of work in connection to (i) Provision of CCTV surveillance system at 103 manned non interlocked Level Crossing Gates having TVU less than 10,000 in Kharagpur division, (ii) Replacement of overaged CCTV System at 08 nos. Special Class manned Level Crossing Gate over Kharagpur division; ₹ 3,50,04,657.93; ₹ 3,25,000/-. **(2) ST-OT-Yard-CCTV-KGP-Ph-I, dated 07.01.2026;** Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Yard CCTV surveillance system in Phase-I over 9 Stations in Kharagpur Division; ₹ 2,35,98,949.63; ₹ 2,68,000/-. **Cost of tender document :** Nil for both. **Completion Period :** 18 Months for sl. no. 1 and 15 Months for sl. no. 2. **Date of Submission :** Upto 12.00 hrs. of 02.02.2026 for both. **Date of Opening :** 02.02.2026 for both. Interested Tenders may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details, description, specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **(PR-1044)**

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) No(s) 11930-11931 OF 2025 WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF**

NAVEEN KUMAR CHANDAK ...Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s)
**VERSUS**
BAJAJ ALLIANZ GENERAL INSURANCE CO. LTD., AND ANOTHER .....Respondent(s)

**To,**
1, JANAKAMMA W/O LATE RAMAIAH, R/O BELATHUR COLONY, BANGALORE EAST TALUK,DISTRICT-BANGALORE URBAN, KARNATAKA-67

PID: 297779/2025 FOR R[2] IN SLP© NO. 11930/2025, SLP(C) NO. 11931/2025SLPO NO. 11930- 11931/2025 (SEC IV-A)

WHEREAS the Petition for Special Leave to Appeal with prayer for interim relief along with application for Condonation of Delay in Filing, Application Under Order V Rule 20 CPC for Effecting Service Through publication above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Mr. HARMEET SINGH RUPRAH, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named was listed for hearing before this Court on 21st April, 2025, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

1. Delay condoned. 2. Issue notice returnable in six weeks.

AND WHEREAS, the matter above-mentioned was listed before Ld. Registrar's Court on 28th November, 2025, When the following order was passed:-

Opportunity of respondent No.I to file counter affidavit has already been declined. Ld. Counsel for the petitioner has filed an application seeking substituted service on respondent No.2 through paper publication in one English and one vernacular daily newspaper. Application is hereby allowed. Four weeks' time is granted to file proof of publication. List again on 15.01.2026."

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition with prayer for interim relief will be posted for hearing before this Court in due course and you may enter appearance before this Court either in person or through an advocate on record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within 30 days from the date of service of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why delay in filing SLP delay in filing SLP be not condoned and Special Leave Petition and interim relief as prayed be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed. Take Further Notice that the prayer for interim relief after notice will also be listed before the Court in due course. You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R.2013 within 30 days from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before- the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPS and may produce such pleadings and documents filled before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence. **Dated: 10th December, 2025**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
**DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**
**INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)**
**ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)**
**(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP)**
Plot No.12&13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58. Ph: 080-2809196, 4184, 4541, 4542, Fax: 080-28094180

**BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE**

On behalf of President of India, **Item rate E-Tender** is invited online from Contractors of appropriate class for the following work

| | |
|---|---|
| NIT No. | **ISTRAC/CMG/CON/C/ETN-101/ 2025-26 Dated: 08.01.2026** |
| Name of work | **Proposed multipurpose sports arena at SCC Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru. (PEB Works)** |
| Estimated Cost put to tender | **Rs. 77.65 Lakhs** |
| Tender Document details | **E-Tender** |
| Period of Completion | **40 (Forty) days** |
| Period during which tender documents can be downloaded | **From 14.30 hrs. on 09.01.2026 to 14.30 hrs on 18.01.2026** |
| Bid clarifications | **From 15.30 hrs. on 09.01.2026 to 16.30 hrs on 18.01.2026** |
| Last date of reply to Bid clarification | **Up to 16.30 hrs on 19.01.2026** |
| Last date & time for receipt of tenders | **Up to 14.30 hrs on 20.01.2026** |
| Due date & time of opening of tenders | **20.01.2026 after 16.30 hours.** |
| Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | **Rs. 1,55,300/-** |

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on the website: **https://isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender fee view at **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

**Sd/- Group Head-CMG**

DH DECCAN HERALD
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Gold Winner
Presents
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#NanuBhumika

Bhumika Club
is back in Namma Bengaluru

Ladies of Bengaluru, join us for the 15th Bengaluru edition of Bhumika Club and kick-start the New Year with a kids fashion show, high-energy Zumba, live music, an exciting Spin & Win contest, and the chance to make new connections—celebrate with friends and family.

Tomorrow 3:30pm onwards

Kings Club, Block-8, Lakeside,
Sir M Vishwesharaiah layout,
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Scan here to Register!
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Cookery Contest | Hi-Tea | Networking

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Give your child the spotlight!
Registrations Closed!

Kusuma H
Spokesperson of KPCC

Chandana Lakshmikanth
Zumba Session

Anagha
Singing Performance

Emcee Sneha
Interactions

Ms. Asha Biradar
President – WICCI Leadership Coaching Council, Karnataka
Session on Skill to Income

Celebrity Guest
Mrs. Shyam
(Tara Fame, Karna Serial, Z Kannada)

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Win big in the lucky draw
1 water purifier worth ₹15000
2 VVIP passes for Prajavani Cine Sammana 2026
1 Family Dinner Voucher

## M'luru lit fest

**MANGALURU, DHNS:** The eighth edition of the two-day Mangaluru Literature festival, focusing on the 'Idea of Bharat', will be held on January 10 and 11.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
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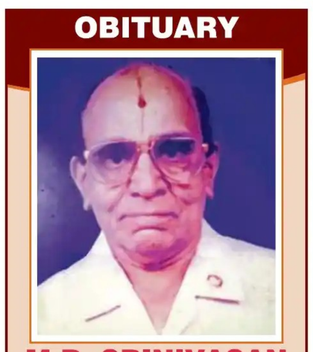
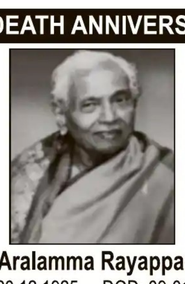
**OBITUARY**



**M.R. SRINIVASAN**
Partner - Kaiser-i-Hind Silks
Passed away on 08-01-2026.
Cremation on 09-01-2026 at 11am.
Resi. Add: 191/2, Shankar Mutt Road 5th Main, Chamarajpet, Bangalore.
Mourned by : Wife M.C.Rukmini, Sons - M.R.Rakshith, M.R.Rohith and Family, Friends & Relatives
Ph: +91 9845408707

**6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**



**Mrs. Aralamma Rayappachari**
DOB: 20.12.1925 - DOD: 09-01-2020
Much Loved & fondly remembered by Children, Grand Children & Great Grand Children

# 13% of those registered under Yuva Nidhi are engg grads

## 90% of graduates unwilling to attend skills training

BENGALURU, DHNS

As much as 13% of the graduates registered under the Yuva Nidhi scheme in the state are engineering graduates.

Of the total 3.79 lakh registered till date, 2.98 lakh are eligible under the scheme and are getting the financial benefit. Of these, 47,000 plus are unemployed engineering graduates.

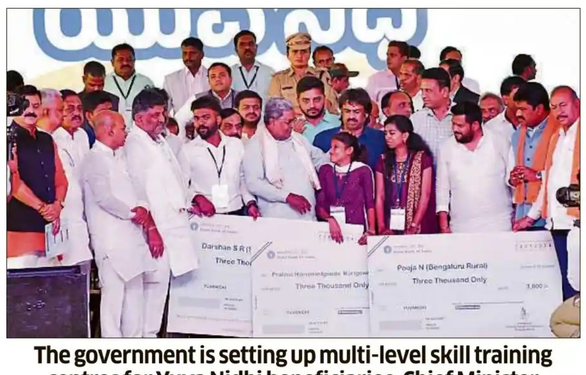
As per information shared by Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development and Livelihood Dr Sharanprakash Patil, the number of non-engineering graduates from the arts, science, commerce, management and other streams registered under the scheme was 3,00,214 and non-engineering postgraduates registered were 27,843.

Stressing on strengthening hands-on training for engineering graduates (to make them employable), Patil said that a model implemented by the Bajaj company at PES University could be extended to other institutions.

"Every year, we are producing at least 1 lakh engineering graduates, but most are struggling to get jobs due to lack of skills. I have requested the companies to set up training centres at engineering colleges and the training cost will be borne by us. Once such a facility is successfully running at PES University," the minister said. Our Yuva Nidhi data reveals the pathetic condition of engineering graduates.

The minister said, "We have analysed data and realised that there is lack of skills among graduates and that is the main reason for unemployment. Considering this, we have launched the Yuva Nidhi Plus scheme, under which we offer training to registered candidates. Unfortunately, 90% of them are not turning up for training".

He said the government was setting up multi-level skill training centres for Yuva Nidhi beneficiaries.



The government is setting up multi-level skill training centres for Yuva Nidhi beneficiaries. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had launched the Yuvanidhi scheme, one of the five guarantees of the Congress government, in Shivamogga in January 2024. DH FILE PHOTO

### 'Dole not to be stopped'

"Despite the government being ready to spend on them, candidates are not willing to attend training. We have tried to reach out to them through messages and calls on the phone, but there has been no response. There is a misconception among the youth that the Yuva Nidhi dole will be stopped during training. But we have clarified several times that it will not be discontinued till they get placed and for two years," he said.

An amount of Rs 27 crore set aside for Yuva Nidhi plus (training purposes) was not utilised during 2025. Now, the department has decided to increase the training target by pooling the funds for 2025 and 2026.

### Yuva Nidhi update

- Total registered: 3,79,080
- Non-engg graduates: 3,00,214
- Non-Engineering post-graduates: 27,843
- Engg graduates: 43,529
- Engg post-graduates: 374
- Diploma (engg): 4,250
- Diploma (others): 2,870
- Total beneficiaries (DBT scheme) 2,98,316
- Expenditure: Rs 874.17 crore .

# SparkZone to drive innovations

(Left to right) Dr Varalatchoumy M, Srinivas M Jamkhandi, Dr T V Prabhakar, D K Mohan, Dr B V Ravishankar and Dr G Indumathi at the launch of Cambrian SparkZone.

The Cambridge Institute of Technology (CIT) created yet another innovation and incubation platform - Cambrian SparkZone - as part of its Cambrian Incubation Centre (CIC), supported by IISc Bengaluru. The Cambrian SparkZone was inaugurated by Dr T V Prabhakar, a chief research scientist at IISc Bengaluru. Srinivas M Jamkhandi, advisor, CIT, convened the programme.

Cambridge Group of Institutions' (CGI) chairman D K Mohan, CEO Nithin Mohan, advisor Dr K N B Murthy, along with CIT's director Dr B V Ravishankar, associate director Dr G Indumathi, and head of CIC Dr Varalatchoumy M attended the event. The event also witnessed the active participation of MSMEs, faculty members, researchers, start-ups and students, with innovations and collaboration opportunities showcased successfully.

### CIC initiative

CIC, which the Cambrian SparkZone is a part of, is an initiative of CIT to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among students, besides nurturing industry-academia collaboration. Given its vision, commitment and bandwidth of work, CIC has been recognised as a 'host institution' by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India. Through mentorship, appropriate infrastructure and funding opportunities, CIC has been actively supporting start-ups, MSMEs and students since its inception.

The Cambrian House of Student Startup (CHOSS), which is also part of CIC, facilitates and empowers students to ideate, develop and incubate their ventures by providing them with the required knowledge platform and facilities. This enables them to translate their innovations into market-ready solutions.

### Future ready

The Cambrian SparkZone aims at becoming a leading hub to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, industry-academia collaboration and empower start-ups, MSMEs and student initiatives in the field of technology. Advance prototyping, incubation, research partnerships and MSME-start-up engagement, in tune with CIT's vision and commitment to nurturing and creating future-ready innovators, will be in focus.

### Creation of portal

To take forward the execution of what has been envisioned, Cambrian SparkZone Portal has been created to have a central interface where ideas and projects can be submitted both by individuals and teams. These submissions can then be easily tracked, evaluated, with transparency maintained. The portal would also assist in streamlining the incubation workflow, starting from idea submission to evaluation, selection, mentoring, funding and thence prototyping and incubation.

### Eligibility for registration

Registration at the portal is open to MSMEs seeking support for innovation and technology development, early stage and growth stage start-ups looking for incubation, mentoring and fund support, students with innovative ideas actively supported by an associated MSME, individuals and research teams working on pioneering technologies that need commercial support.

### Journeying from idea to prototype

Upon submitting the idea to the Cambrian SparkZone Portal, the evaluation for uniqueness and feasibility is first done. Upon acceptance of the idea, a mentor is assigned along with required funding and relevant resources. This initiates the project into action where the timeline can be 3-4 months in case of a small prototype and 6-8 months in case of a larger prototype. The periodic reviews and monitoring feature post this, including feedback in case of rejection of the prototype submitted. On successful completion, incubation support is extended along with potential commercialisation or further development of the product / technology.

Curated by DH Brandspot

## HC bins anthem tune plea

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The High Court has dismissed singer Kikkeri Krishnamurthy's writ appeal challenging a single-bench order on the tune of the state anthem 'Jayabharatha Jananiya Tanujate'.

Krishnamurthy had questioned the government's September 25, 2022, order selecting the rendition in a two-minute, 30-second tune composed by Mysore Ananthaswamy.

## Two-day Hornbill festival in Dandeli from January 16

**HUBBALLI, DHNS:** The Forest Department is organising a two-day hornbill festival at Dandeli in Uttara Kannada district on January 16 and 17. The sixth edition of the event is being organised after a gap of one year.

Apart from witnessing the four varieties of hornbills, including the great Indian hornbill, in their natural habitat of Western Ghats, the participants will also get to understand the culture of the local communities and conservation efforts of the department, said a press release from the Haliyal division of the Forest Department, which is hosting the event along with Kali Tiger Reserve.

Participants would go on guided bird watching trails and take part in expert talks on the habitat and biodiversity conservation of this flagship species, along with witnessing the conservation awareness and community empowerment programmes taken up by the department. Experts from Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and other states will be participating to speak about the community conservation efforts in those hornbill states.

Interested individuals can register their names at https://kalitigerreserve.org/hornbill-festival-2026/ by paying Rs 1,500 per person.

# Implement electronic tender submission to prevent false documents, HC tells state

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has asked the state government to implement a comprehensive methodology for the prevention of submission of false documents in public tenders.

All public procurement processes in the state should mandate electronic submission of tender documents through the E-Procurement Portal, Justice Suraj Govindaraj said while dismissing the petition filed by a contractor challenging debarment.

"A comprehensive methodology for the prevention of submission of false documents in public procurement through structured utilisation of Information Technology, is required to be implemented by the Government of Karnataka and all procuring entities so as to take proactive action in such matters," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said.

The court said the primary objective of the framework is early detection and prevention of false document submission at the tender design and submission stages, rather than reliance upon post-award cancellation or purely punitive remedies. The court issued directions on Document Format and Metadata Requirements while uploading the details. "The portal shall automatically generate a report citing reasons for rejecting any upload where mandatory metadata fields are left blank or contain obviously spurious data (e.g., validity periods exceeding the natural tenure of the document type). Standardised metadata enables automated cross-verification without manual intervention. It also creates an immutable audit trail of document provenance," the court said.

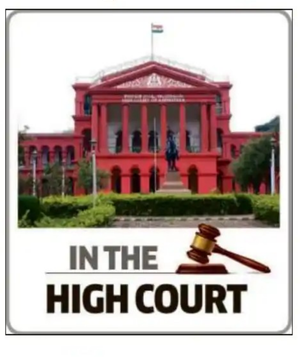
The state government has been directed to establish and maintain a Centralised State Debarment Registry (SDR). The e-Procurement Portal should maintain a real-time Analytics Dashboard accessible to the State Finance Department and state govt for tracking purposes, the court said. "A sanitised version of the Analytics Dashboard (excluding contractor identifiable information) shall be published quarterly on the State e-Governance portal to promote transparency and deter fraud," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said, adding that the points in the order are only indicative and not exhaustive. The court has asked the authorities to file a report regarding the implementation in six weeks.

In the case at hand, the petitioner Anantha Krishna Shetty, a resident of Mangaluru, challenged the order passed by the Mangalore City Corporation (MCC) debarring him from participating in the tender process for submitting false supporting documents. Justice Suraj Govindaraj dismissed the petition, with liberty to the MCC to take necessary criminal action against the petitioner.

"This is not a stray case. There are several matters coming up before this court wherein false documents were furnished during the tender submission process, which indicates systemic vulnerabilities in the procurement processes of public bodies. This resulted in repeated submission of false and forged documents by unscrupulous tenderers, thereby occasioning substantial loss to the public exchequer and undermining the integrity of public procurement," the court said.

# Strangers can't be drawn into proceedings for cruelty under IPC section 498: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS




A stranger cannot be drawn into the proceedings for offences under IPC section 498A (cruelty), between the husband, wife or the family members, the high court has said.

Justice M Nagaprasanna said this while quashing the proceedings against Asha G, a resident of Bengaluru city.

The petitioner Asha G challenged the proceedings pending against her before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bengaluru. It was submitted that the petitioner was a neighbour of a couple, who were married in November 2006. The wife had filed the complaint on February 13, 2021, against her husband, his family members and the petitioner with the Mahalakshmi Layout police.

After investigation, the police filed the chargesheet considering the petitioner as accused number 5 in the case. It was submitted that the petitioner had no role to play in the family. She was the neighbour and the only allegation is that she instigated the husband to behave in a particular manner. On the other hand, the complainant contended that the petitioner was the reason behind her husband's behaviour and therefore, she should stand trial.

Justice Nagaprasanna noted that in the chargesheet the petitioner's name is nowhere found except contending that she has instigated the husband to torture the wife. Otherwise, the petitioner would not fit into the definition of family as is obtained under IPC section 498A, the court said.

The court cited the Apex Court judgment in the Ramesh Kannojia case and said the top court had specifically held that a stranger cannot be drawn into the proceedings for offences under IPC section 498A.

"The Apex Court considers the very aspect as to whether a stranger/neighbour can be drawn into a proceeding under Section 498A of the IPC and holds that it is impermissible in law. In that light a stranger cannot be drawn into the proceedings for offences under Section 498A of the IPC, between the husband, wife or the family members. Permitting further proceedings against this petitioner would become an abuse of the process of the law and result in miscarriage of justice," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

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| AREA OF INTEREST | TYPE OF BID |
|---|---|
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| (a) Swimming Pool<br>(b) Pest Control<br>(c) CCTV<br>(d) Elevators & Lifts<br>(e) Diesel Generators<br>(f) Sewage Treatment Plant | AMC |

3. Once E of I is received, Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued.
4. Prospective Vendors to submit their proposal by 27 Jan 2026 to the office of the RFC. Email ID: vendorteam@sandeepvihar.com

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The General Public is hereby put to notice that my client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from its original owners namely **1) Sri.J.SHASHI KIRAN,** S/o. Late. Jayadeva Reddy, **2) Sri. J.VINOD,** S/o. Late. Jayadeva Reddy, both are residing at No.146, Rajkumar Road, Near Yallamma Temple, Agara, HSR Layout Bangalore – 560102 and **3) Smt.B.L.GAYATHRI,** W/o. Late. G.Prabhakara Reddy, Aged about 67 years, Aadhaar No.8331 2936 0417, PAN:AGQPG9848N, residing at NO.741, 1st A Cross, 18th Main, 6th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 095.

Any person having any right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof within **Seven (7) days** of this publication. In case no such notice is received by us within **Seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice, it shall be presumed that the title of the aforesaid owners with respect to the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Claims or alleged interest, if any, which are not received within **Seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice shall be deemed to have been waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall not be binding on my client.

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**I, DHULIPALLA** SRISKANDA #7, 3rd Cross, Ramanjaneya Layout, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-37, Have Changed My Name To DHULIPALLA SHREE SKANDHA Vide Affidavit Dated: 08/01/2026

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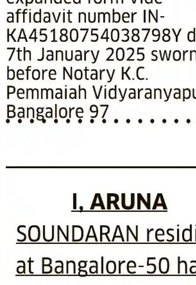

**Congratulations**
**BHAVYA H**
**PhD**
Daughter of **Sri Hanumantharayappa and Smt. H. R. Sarojamma,** and Lecturer in Economics at Taproot PU College, has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics by Tumkur University. Her research work titled **"Impact of Organic Farming on Socio–economic Status of Farmers in Karnataka: A Comparative Study"** was carried out under the guidance of **Dr. Vilas M. Kadrolkar,** Senior Professor, Department of Economics, Tumkur University, Tumakuru"
Best Wishes : Family and Friends

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **DIYA BHARATH GIRIYAPURA & DIYA BHARATH,** D/o Bharath S. Giriyapura, residing at # 7B, SJR Eastwood, Haralur Road, Bengaluru-560102, declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as **DIYA BHARATH** vide affidavit 08.01.2026 before notary K. Ramegowda, Bengaluru

**I, SANDHYA.N** d/o Late Narayanan Kutty K E w/o Arayath Koroth Haridas R/o Flat 205 Celestial Apartment 2nd Block 2nd Cross BEL Layout Vidyaranyapura Bangalore 97 have changed my name after marriage to Sandhya N Hari or Sandhya Narayanan Hari in its expanded form vide affidavit number IN-KA45180754038798Y dtd 7th January 2025 sworn before Notary K.C. Pemmaiah Vidyaranyapura Bangalore 97

**I, ARUNA** SOUNDARAN residing at Bangalore-50 have changed my name as ARUNA SOUNDIRAN vide affidavit dated 07-01-2025 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bangalore

**I,AMIT BHADORIA** Residing`at No.211, 6th`A`Main, 2nd`Cross, Vinayaka Nagar, Defence`Colony, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560063 have changed my`minor Daughter's Name`from SANSKRITI SINGH to SANSKRITI BHADORIA vide`Affidavit Dtd:08-01-2026 Sworn`Before Notary G.R.Rajanna, Bangalore.

**Announcements**

**THIS IS** to inform all concerned that Rajalakshmi (NSDL Client Ids: 26500855, 26501149), Rajalakshmi H (Pan:Akppr***M,Aadhaar:XXXXXXXX4464)& Rajalakshmi Hariharan (Passport:M*82) are the same person. This is to inform all concerned that Hariharan (Nsdl Client id 26501149), Hariharan T S (Pan: Aabph***A, Aadhaar:XXXXXXXX7785) & Hariharan Taracad Sundaresan (Passport:M*43) are the same person.

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# SRI SIDDARAMAIAH

## Karnataka's longest serving chief minister

*Leading Karnataka to progress and prosperity*

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### Some ideals of Sri Siddaramaiah

- Although one cannot do good to everyone, one should not wish evil on anyone.
- I have never indulged in hate politics. I will never do it. No one should do it.
- No one has invited us to politics. We have come on our own. We should serve the people honestly.
- Theories must be put into practice. There should never be any compromise on that.
- Try sincerely to remain honest.
- We must be accountable for the public's tax money.
- Power should not be used for selfish purposes.
- Any government position should be used for public service only.

### In politics - fact file

- Leader of the opposition twice - 2009 and 2019.
- Chief minister twice – 2013-18 and 2023 till date.
- Worked with five chief ministers – Sri Ramakrishna Hegde, Sri H D Deve Gowda, Sri S R Bommai, Sri J H Patel and Sri Dharam Singh.
- Contested assembly elections nine times. Won seven, lost two.

### Projects that made headlines

- During his first term in office – 2013-18 – he launched many schemes including 'Anna Bhagya' and 'Ksheera Bhagya' These two made Sri Siddaramaiah very popular in the State and earned him fame. The Indira Canteen was another of his initiatives that helped the working class.
- The five guarantees have been a highlight during Sri Siddaramaiah's current tenure as chief minister - since 2023. The 'Griha Jyoti', 'Griha Lakshmi', 'Anna Bhagya', 'Shakti' and 'Yuvanidhi' schemes have created a stir across the country and earned him a lot of goodwill.

# Equal and inclusive society: Sri Siddaramaiah's goals

**Sri Siddaramaiah's** ideology and belief that everyone is equal, along with his deep love and concern for the weaker sections, has earned him fame and goodwill among the masses, writes **Nagaraju Ashwath**

Chief Minister Sri Siddaramaiah came very close to the people of the State with his ideological stances. After taking oath as the 22nd chief minister of the State in 2013, there have been many discussions on his personal ideologies on many occasions. There have been many discussions about Sri Siddaramaiah's practices, beliefs and ideological stances. However, beyond all these discussions, in his statement 'building an equal society is my goal' can be seen is strong view that all are equal for him.

Sri Siddaramaiah was especially close to the State's leading politicians, Sri Ramakrishna Hegde, Sri H D Deve Gowda, Sri S R Bommai, Sri J H Patel and Sri Dharam Singh, when they were chief ministers. He always identified with these leaders. Most importantly, Sri Siddaramaiah, who entered politics after being influenced by the lessons from his teacher Sri M D Nanjundaswamy, has grown up in a socialist background. That is why he has great faith in the principle of humanity. Human beings should be loved. Everyone has the right to life. He has special love and concern for the weaker sections. These aspects are also reflected in his pro-people projects.

### War against ignorance

Sri Siddaramaiah, who had witnessed innocent people being misled and troubled by superstitious practices in the State, played a major role in the implementation of the Superstition Prohibition Act. Through the Act, he aimed at eradicating many superstitious practices. Apart from this, he has worked hard to remove many superstitions from the minds of the people.

For example, there was a lot of talk in political circles of chief ministers who visit Chamarajanagar in the state losing power. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah himself took the initiative to prove this statement to be false. He visited Chamarajanagar district more than 10 times in his first term and succeeded in erasing the myth.

Some people had even believed that he would lose power when a crow sat on his car. However, Sri Siddaramaiah, who does not attach importance to any of these superstitions, continues to remain in power, answering such people with his work alone.

### Respecting seniority is a virtue

In the year 1996, Sri H D Deve Gowda was elected prime minister. At that time, everyone thought that Sri Siddaramaiah would come to power as the chief minister of Karnataka. Sri Siddaramaiah, who was very popular as finance minister, was almost certain to become the chief minister. In addition, some leaders in the State had launched a signature campaign among MLAs to find out who they believed should be the next chief minister. In this campaign, more than 80 MLAs expressed their desire that Sri Siddaramaiah should be the chief minister.

Amidst these developments, given the seniority of Sri J H Patel and requests from senior leaders including Sri H D Deve Gowda, Sri Ramakrishna Hegde, Sri S R Bommai, Sri R L Jalappa, Sri M C Nanayya and Sri P G R Scindia, Sri Siddaramaiah stayed away from the post of chief minister. He remained deputy chief minister during that time.

# Champion of the weaker sections

The focus of **Sri Siddaramaiah's** government has been on equality and social development, says businesswoman **Dr Shalini Nalwad**

Sri Siddaramaiah has run the government on the path of democracy as detailed by the 12th Century poet Basavanna. He has ensured equality and equal opportunities for all. In his previous tenure, he implemented various schemes including 'Anna Bhagya' and 'Ksheera Bhagya' to help the poor. Now, he has attracted everyone's attention with his five guarantee schemes.

Sri Siddaramaiah, who has always been a champion of the poor and backward classes, has made a long-term impact on the socio-economic environment of Karnataka. He has focussed on justice and development. Being the chief minister for a long period is a very challenging task. He has succeeded in this journey. Good luck to him.

# Sri Siddaramaiah is an epitome of pro-people ideology

He is a close friend who always responded when we reached out to him, says **Y S V Datta**, a senior politician

Sri Siddaramaiah is a close friend though he is six years older than me. He has been a good friend in politics too. We originally came from the Janata Parivar. When Sri Siddaramaiah was the State president of the JDS party, I was its general secretary. I was fully involved in the work of building the party with him. I worked with him very closely during this period.

Although he was a strong supporter of Sri Deve Gowda, my friendship with Sri Siddaramaiah never faltered. Even when he joined the Congress party, our friendship was never affected. When he became the chief minister for the first time in 2013, I was also elected as an MLA. During that period, he provided a large amount of grants for the Kadur Assembly Constituency. I would like to express my sincere gratitude on behalf of the people of the constituency for the opportunity to talk to him directly about any project and for the way he responded to the development of our constituency.

I am proud that I have gained the trust and love of Sri H D Deve Gowda and Sri Siddaramaiah in my political journey. I am happy that Sri Siddaramaiah has broken Sri D Devaraj Urs' record and is now the longest-serving chief minister. I wish Sri Siddaramaiah achieves more records in the future.

## It's a matter of pride for the party

I am happy that Sri Siddaramaiah has surpassed Sri D Devaraj Urs' record and is now the longest-serving chief minister. This is a matter of pride for the Congress party, for him, and for all of us. He has broken a long-standing record.

Sri Siddaramaiah has worked hard to reach this position. He has fought many battles. This moment has come as a result of his hard work and struggle. He has presented the State Budget successfully many times. We want him to continue. I congratulate him on this occasion.

**-Satish Jarkiholi**
Minister of Public Works Department, Government of Karnataka

# A chief minister who is always pro-people

**Sri Siddaramaiah** always backed any initiative that empowered the weaker sections of society, says **H C Mahadevappa**, Minister of Social Welfare, Government of Karnataka

It's been 40 years of friendship with Sri Siddaramaiah. Being in politics with him with the same ideology has helped me a lot in formulating many projects. Sri Siddaramaiah always aspires to be the voice of the people who are exploited in society, apart from the backward classes and minorities. If you propose any pro-people project to Sri Siddaramaiah, he will never say no.

With a long tenure as finance minister, he has the expertise to allocate money wisely to projects in the Budget. This is evident in the many schemes he has initiated for the backward classes. He strongly backed projects where funds were allocated in the Budget for the welfare of Scheduled Castes. He is a moving spirit behind The SCSP TSP Act, internal reservations, SC/ST Promotion Reservation Bill, and the Karnataka State Financial Corporation's loan facility of Rs 20 lakhs to Rs 10 crores at just four per cent interest for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs. Many of his initiatives are aimed at empowering the economically-weaker sections of society.

Most importantly, Sri Siddaramaiah is the one who initiated the caste census to uphold the principles of the Constitution. In order to formulate plans that create an equal society, accurate information on the population with detailed statistics are important. That is why he agreed to the caste census in 2013.

We should live with the feeling 'we are all one'. We should not allow any ideology that creates disturbances in society. Therefore, reading the Preamble of the Constitution during prayers in schools and colleges has been made mandatory. Also, we had formed a human chain on International Democracy Day with the good intention of creating more awareness among the people about the principles of the Constitution. This human chain of 2,500 km from Bidar to Chamarajanagara by more than 25 lakh people created a world record.

Thus, Sri Siddaramaiah has always backed any programme that is pro-people. We are happy that he continues as chief minister.

# Always ready for a welfare scheme

**A S Premnath**, former Managing Director, KMF, explains how **Sri Siddaramaiah** readily gave the go-ahead to the '**Ksheera Bhagya**' proposal

In 2013, when the government was formed, Sri Siddaramaiah announced many schemes. He was preparing to provide funds for these projects. At this point in time, 53 lakh litres of milk used to be supplied to the KMF daily by farmers. However, only 29 lakh litres were sold. Also, at this time, 10 lakh litres of milk used to be converted into powder. There was a huge financial challenge on a daily basis, including storage, management and conversion of the remaining milk into powder.

As a solution to this, we formulated a scheme of providing milk to children in government schools across the State. We took this proposal to the chief minister Sri Siddaramaiah. The KMF president had also supported this proposal. At around 6.30 am, I went to the chief minister's residence and spoke to Sri S V Ranganath, who was the chief secretary to the government, about this scheme. The scheme to provide milk to children in government schools would not only compensate for the losses, but also enhance the prosperity of farmers in the State. However, at that time, arrangements were being made to provide funds for the government's 'Bhagya' schemes. It was therefore believed that even though this proposal was good, funds would not be allocated to carry it out.

The chief secretary Sri S V Ranganath stood in favour of the scheme. He suggested that the unused funds in some departments could be set aside in the supplementary Budget and spent on this scheme. Sri Siddaramaiah, who appreciated this proposal, gave the go-ahead for the scheme. This is how the scheme, called 'Ksheera Bhagya', became a reality. It was a boon to farmers of the State and children in government schools.

This reflects Sri Siddaramaiah's attitude towards many schemes. That is why he is a people's leader.

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# A growth uptick in testing times

The first advance estimates (FAEs) of gross domestic product (GDP) for Financial Year 2025-26, released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), are more optimistic than most projections, and are set at a 7.4-% growth. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had projected a growth rate of 7.3% for the current year. While the economy grew 8% in the first half of the year, it is expected to slow down in the second half, possibly on account of a decline in government spending and the impact of the tariff hikes imposed by the United States. But the 7.4% growth estimate is impressive, and is much higher than last year's 6.5%. Low inflation and improved consumption may have partly driven this trend. But it should be noted that the nominal growth for the year is projected at 8%, which is less than the budget expectation of 10.1%. It would also be the second consecutive year with the nominal growth clocking under 10%. This sluggish growth will have its budgetary implications.

The services sector is expected to lead the growth with a sharp spike, from 7.2% in 2024-25 to 9.1% in 2025-26. But other sectors such as trade, hotels, transport and communication, finance, real estate, professional services, and public administration are all expected to show good gains. Trade has not been badly affected by the tariff hikes, but the situation may change in the coming months. The manufacturing sector is projected to improve, but construction and utilities are growing at a slower rate. Consumption and investment activities are likely to do better.

**Consumption powers GDP estimates; sluggish nominal growth, global vulnerabilities are concerns**

The GDP estimates are based on existing data, available till November, and have been compiled using the existing methodologies. The NSO has plans to release a new GDP series in February, with 2022-23 set as the base year. This is set to expand the data sources and is expected to reflect the state of the economy better. A new series for the consumer price index is expected to be released, along with a series on an index of industrial production. While the new methodologies will change the way the country's economy and its indicators are measured, the real improvement has to come from the ground. India's economy will face challenges mainly on the external front. It will be affected by the turbulence at the global level. There is concern over the implications of higher tariffs imposed by the US. The two trade agreements, which are being pursued, will be critical to ensuring stability on the trade front.

# Prescient warnings of a people's scientist

The death of Madhav Gadgil at 83 marks an immense loss to India's environmental movement. The most fitting tribute to this people's scientist would not be ceremonial praise, but the political will to act on his most insightful warning: the Western Ghats are being pushed towards ecological collapse. The 2011 report by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, chaired by Gadgil, was far ahead of its time. It opposed the reckless and unscientific exploitation of one of the world's oldest and most fragile mountain systems. Declaring the entire Ghats an Ecologically Sensitive Area was not idealism but ecological realism. Stretching over 1,600 kilometres and recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this mountain range sustains peninsular India's rivers, monsoons, biodiversity, and food security. To treat it as expendable real estate was, and remains, an act of collective self-harm.

Nearly 15 years later, Gadgil's warnings read like a post-mortem written in advance. Hills have been flattened for real estate, quarries gnaw relentlessly at the slopes, land conversions have fragmented forests, and over-tourism has strained landscapes. Mining, unregulated homestays, widening roads, and concrete-heavy projects have turned rainfall from a natural blessing into a recurring disaster. Landslides in Kodagu, Wayanad, Idukki, and parts of Maharashtra are no longer aberrations; they are annual reminders of systemic policy failure. The report's call to ban mining, polluting industries, and large dams in ecologically sensitive zones was not anti-development or anti-poor as portrayed by various political interests; it was a prescription for the long-term survival of the region. Gadgil also argued that conservation requires the involvement of gram panchayats, noting that local communities often prove better custodians than state governments prone to short-term economic pressures.

**Honouring Gadgil's legacy will require ensuring the safeguards he advocated for the Western Ghats**

Political resistance, however, chose dilution. The subsequent Kasturirangan Committee reduced ecological protection to a fraction of what was recommended by Gadgil. Even this version remains largely unimplemented. Gadgil repeatedly warned that disasters in the Western Ghats were "man-made"; while climate change may intensify rainfall, it is human interference that transforms heavy rain into catastrophe. Ignoring this has cost lives, livelihoods, natural wealth, and public money. As Gadgil passes into history, the Western Ghats continue to die a slow, visible death. Honouring him demands more than obituaries. At the very least, the core principles of his report must be implemented. If the Gadgil Report is allowed to fade into archives, India will have lost not just a scientist, but a chance to save a mountain range that holds up the subcontinent.

RIGHTS AND THE WRONGED

# Can forest conservation make room for justice?

Adivasi assertion of land rights is a response to exclusionary conservation models and institutional failures

**PRASHANTH N SRINIVAS**

In Nagarahole in southern Karnataka, a quiet but determined reclamation is underway. In May 2025, 52 families of the Jenukuruba, one of the twelve forest-associated Adivasi communities of Karnataka, reclaimed their ancestral *haadi* of Karadikallu Atturu Kolli, inside the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve. Their elders had been evicted nearly four decades ago, when the area was first sealed off for conservation and later notified as a tiger reserve. The families built makeshift huts, set up shrines, and publicly declared that they were asserting rights guaranteed under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA). In December 2025, further news stories indicated similar acts of land assertion among other Adivasi communities.

These were not new claims. They have filed applications since 2009-11, attended multiple rounds of surveys and committee hearings, and waited through years of bureaucratic delay. Yet, as they attempted to re-establish their settlement, they were repeatedly warned to leave. Citing wildlife laws, officials termed the return an "illegal occupation", even as community members stressed that they were not encroachers but rights-holders denied due process. As reported in several independent media outlets, over 250 forest guards, tiger force personnel, and police eventually raided the settlement, dismantling shelters despite the presence of women, children, and elderly people. The confrontation has become one of the most visible Adivasi assertions of land rights in a flagship tiger reserve, and a stark reminder that conservation policy in India continues to sit uneasily with justice.

This apparent act of defiance is also a symbolic return, rooted in memory, law, and belonging. The Jenukuruba struggle mirrors the long, unfinished history of India's forest-dwelling peoples and their fraught relationship with forest administration, a system that still struggles to see Adivasis as rightful citizens of landscapes now rebranded as protected areas. The problem is not, as is often implied, one of "illiteracy" or ignorance among Adivasi communities. It lies in the tardy and obstructed implementation of the FRA, and in the persistence of a conservation mindset that continues to view Adivasis primarily as obstacles to ecological goals rather than as partners in sustaining forests. Notably, many conservation practitioners in India no longer support such exclusionary models, but the institutionalised practice of the colonial, protectionist style of forest administration has been slow to change.

The idea that effective conservation requires people-free forests remains deeply embedded in India's wildlife discourse. While such thinking is often framed as necessary for ecological recovery, it has produced a perverse outcome: Adivasi communities, who have historically conserved biodiversity, bear the highest costs of conservation, even as cities and towns expand at the expense of biodiversity. Tigers they did not hunt, and forests they did not fell have become reasons to deny them roads, electricity, schools, and water; basic amenities that define equal citizenship.

A senior official in the Karnataka Forest Department, while calling the self-assertion in Nagarahole "illegal", suggested the Adivasis were "instigated". The National Tiger Conservation Authority, for instance, in its reports, including the 2024 report titled *Bridging the Gap: Unveiling the Effectiveness of India's Tiger Reserve Management*, identifies Soliga Adivasi villages inside the Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve as a "threat", citing population growth and demands for infrastructure. This assessment sits uneasily with both history and evidence. The Soliga have lived in these forests for centuries, with written records dating back to the 19th century, and their coexistence with wildlife is well documented. In Nagarahole, the Muzaffar Assadi Committee of the Karnataka government documented the eviction of Adivasis, many without rehabilitation.

### The myth of the "innocent tribal"

The portrayal of Adivasis as "innocent people being instigated" is a familiar trope. It allows the State to simultaneously infantilise and criminalise them, and delegitimises democratic assertion. Does any citizen need "instigation" to demand roads, schools, and water in villages that are legally recognised under parliamentary law? In reality, such movements emerge from within communities that have exhausted every official route. The Jenukuruba filed claims, attended meetings of sub-divisional and district committees, and waited years for decisions that never arrived. Their return is an act of last resort grounded in legal entitlement and moral claim.

Across the country, forest departments resist the settlement of lawful claims under the FRA, turning a corrective statute into a site of continuous tension between forest departments and district administration. In Ramanagara, the Adivasi scholar K V Krishnamurthy recently wrote in *DH* about Iruliga villages without roads or basic amenities. In BRT, several Soliga villages, such as Purani and Bedaguli, remain without electricity or piped water even after securing individual and community forest rights. In the nearby MM Hills, Soliga villages like Palar, Aalambaadi, and Mendare fear that the proposed MM Hills tiger reserve will once again push them into legal and developmental limbo. These are not isolated but institutional failures.

Forests do not need to be freed of people to thrive. Globally, evidence shows that biodiversity often flourishes where indigenous communities have secure tenure and stewardship. In an era of accelerating ecological crisis, it is unfair to expect Adivasis to shoulder the costs of biodiversity protection alone, especially when the benefits are shared by all of us. The Jenukuruba stand in Nagarahole is not an obstacle to conservation. It is a reminder that justice and ecology are inseparable, and that democracy must extend into the forest. Their message: "Our forests, our lands, our rule", is not defiance. It is the spirit of the FRA, asking to be taken seriously.

*(The writer is a medical doctor and public health practitioner working on Adivasi health and development)*

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

# Ode to a fighter jet

The farewell to the MiG-21 was a testament to the bond between man and machine

**HARI ARAYAMMAKUL**

It was a farewell unlike any other; a ceremony so extraordinary that one may never quite see the same again. Chandigarh Air Base stood in ceremonial splendour to bid goodbye to a legend: the MiG-21, sentinel of India's skies for more than six decades.

I arrived a day early, wandering and tracing old memories in Chandigarh's orderly streets, not far from the western frontier, under heightened security. Two days earlier, the Air Force had dress-rehearsed the farewell in full, sans guests, and perhaps sans emotion.

That morning, the airfield shimmered under the autumn sun. The gathering was remarkable: generations of MiG pilots and technicians, war veterans, service chiefs, and the defence minister. Media cameras stood like sentries, tripods planted, lenses trained. Beneath sky-blue *shamianas*, spectators waited in hushed anticipation.

Then came the announcement: six MiG-21s, tails streaked in the tricolour, would take off for their final flight. A ripple of applause ran through the stands. The number was symbolic—six aircraft inducted in 1963, six decades of service, and now six flying their last salute.

For nearly half an hour, the fighters carved patterns of farewell across the sky: combat formations, intercept drills, and mock chases. Even in twilight, the MiGs revealed the heart of warriors. When the aircraft touched down one by one, applause rose again, long and full. Like soldiers halting their march while the rhythm still holds, the MiG-21s chose to rest while their engines sang true.

Crash tenders lined the tarmac, arcing water into a misty tribute. Sunlight broke into rainbows as the MiGs rolled beneath. Engines that once roared in battle fell silent—forever. Pilots stepped out, helmets cradled to their chests. Behind them stood the aircraft, motionless. A chapter had closed.

Inducted in 1963, the MiG-21 was India's first supersonic fighter—rugged, reliable, simple to maintain, and ever ready. It was a soldier's aircraft: unpretentious, dependable, and unforgiving of weakness.

In battle, machines often transcend metal. Between a warrior and his weapon forms a silent fraternity. For a fighter pilot, that bond is absolute; once airborne, there is only sky, instinct, and trust.

To the uninitiated, such emotion for a machine may seem excessive. Yet in the history of warfare, weapons have never been mere tools. Arjuna's Gandiva, Bhima's mace, Achilles' spear, the samurai's *katana*, or the Gurkha's *kukri* – these were not just weapons but extensions of their wielder's spirit. Weapons embody the courage, endurance, and genius of their time. Over the years, the blood and pain fade, leaving only reverence and pride. In every era, weapons that once brought destruction later become heritage, preserved not for the wars they fought, but for the bravery they symbolise.

The farewell was the culmination of a relationship. Between man and machine, between memory and legacy. A parting between comrades.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Stray dogs on roads a cause for concern

I refer to 'Not just bites, dogs on roads pose hazards to motorists, says SC' (Jan 8). The Supreme Court's observation that stray dogs prowling the streets not only bite men, women, and children but also indulge in chasing vehicles, especially two-wheelers, all the while snapping at the feet of the riders, distracting them in the process and causing accidents, is pertinent. Dogs running after vehicles is a common sight in the streets of Bengaluru, and several accidents, some of them fatal, have been caused because of them. Assiduous efforts are being undertaken by civic authorities in almost all cities to tackle the stray dog menace, but even neutering, sterilisation, etc., have met with limited success. Moving strays to shelters outside cities and towns is an expensive affair, as civic authorities will not only have to feed the animals, but look after their welfare, and attend to their medical needs, making the costs prohibitive.

**C V Aravind**, Bengaluru

## Fix gig economy

Apropos 'Risks without rights: India's gig economy imbalance' (Jan 7), it requires an immediate permanent solution. The gig economy is a result of the growth of the digital economy, which bridges the physical and cyber worlds. The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated this growth, leading to an increase in gig workers directly linked to the digital economy's expansion. The digital economy is driven by e-commerce, social networking platforms, and increased remote work. As the digital economy grows, the number of gig workers is projected to rise from 12 million in FY 2024-25 to 23.5 million by 2030. The concerns and challenges of gig workers must be addressed.

**N Ramesh**, Bengaluru

## Safeguard forests

With reference to 'Tiger survey to count other carnivores, mega herbivores too' (Jan 6), it is a matter of pride that Karnataka continues to be among the top states with the highest number of tigers in India. While the state has performed well in tiger conservation, it must also take proactive steps to curb deforestation and protect habitats.

**Anarghya Garoo**, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

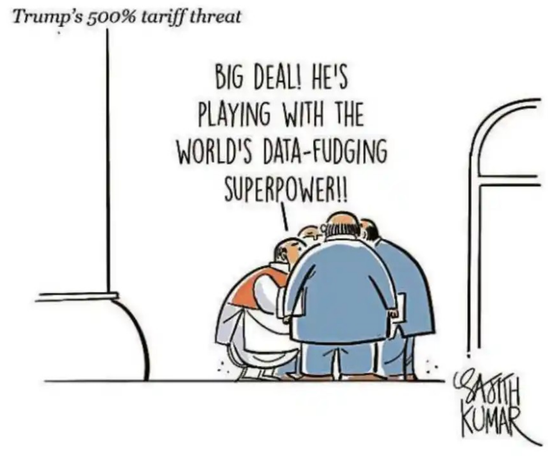
JD(S) wants to have a friendly fight with the BJP. This is to save their party. Please, don't have a friendly fight. Join them. A friendly fight will only create confusion among your party workers.

**D K Shivakumar**, Karnataka Dy CM

Before you save the world, make sure your own house is in order.

**Charles F Glassman**

TO BE PRECISE




IN PERSPECTIVE

# The crisis of sovereignty

Global powers use varied tools of dominance in an age increasingly distanced from the idea of absolute sovereignty

**SUNDARAM RAJASIMMAN**

The desire for governance at the global level is not new; the earliest documentation of global governance can be traced back to the 14th century. For example, in Dante Alighieri's *De Monarchia* (1311) and its 1949 translation, *On World Government*. It can be argued that some of the early attempts at global governance occurred in the domain of religion, where the universality of monolithic religions sought influence over the entire mankind, but failed. Attempts at global governance through religious warfare came to a pause in the mid-17th century and led to the concept of sovereignty in the Westphalian region of Germany. This concept has been at the core of the international system as we know it today.

Sovereignty, as it originated in Europe, was primarily concerned with peace and security in Europe. In its purest interpretation, it implies that a sovereign must not intervene in the sovereignty of another sovereign. It was not until the 19th century that this concept came into full play and continues to define the in-vogue world order. Yet, the evolution in scientific knowledge has transformed the traditional understanding of this concept.

In its evolution, sovereignty, which was once located with God, transferred to the Papal, then to the King and the State, and finally, to the people. In our times, sovereignty is mostly popular as a social contract that allows the State to act on behalf of the people. In a globalised world, a moderate sovereignty is in practice, where a sovereign, by its own willingness, sets the limits of its sovereignty in relation to other sovereigns and hence, volunteers to make compromises to its absolute authority.

This rationale of popular sovereignty is in play in the United States' recent invasion of Venezuela and the arrest of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife. The US has justified its use of military force against another sovereign by locating the concept of sovereignty with the people of Venezuela. According to US President Donald Trump, "the people in Venezuela are free again". Furthermore, following his Angelus prayer at St Peter's Square, the first US pope told the crowd that "the welfare of the beloved Venezuelan people must prevail over all other considerations". Starlink, a subsidiary of SpaceX, announced "free broadband service to the people of Venezuela through February 3, ensuring continued connectivity".

Governance requires technology that defines the objective of governance. For example, population as a governance concern came into being due to the advancement in the 'technology' of statistics, and environment as a governance concern due to climate change. Global governance, in this regard, requires technologies to work around the concept of sovereignty located at the level of the nation-state.

### One goal, two methods

The two great powers within the present international system, the US and China, employ two dissimilar approaches to pursue global governance. The US has banked on the concepts of freedom, justice, and human rights as tools of global governance, while China has used the concept of development, borrowed from Marxism, as a technology for global governance. Providing financial assistance to another nation and investing in railways, roads, or ports there can be seen as a violation of the idea of sovereignty.

The primary purpose for employing these technologies – human rights or development – in global governance is to address the concept of sovereignty, which contradicts the idea of global governance. The US's attack on Venezuela came hours after a Chinese special envoy met with Maduro to reaffirm Beijing's support for his regime. This underscores the clash between the approaches followed by two great powers, both seeking prominent roles in global governance.

This case demonstrates some of the gaps in China's reliance on the development formula for global governance, and necessitates a careful analysis of the US's emphasis on human rights, which have been upgraded to god-given natural rights in the US National Security Strategy of 2025.

The world is nearing the end of the sovereign period in history, which began in the 17th century. Much of the churn we witness today in the international system can be traced to a transition from this period to one marked by post-sovereign interests. India's foreign policy must steal a march on this change, given the weakening sovereignty of its neighbours in South Asia. This is the time for India to establish an appropriate framework of regional governance and develop the requisite technologies to meet that objective.

*(The writer lectures at the Sichuan International Studies University, Chongqing, China)*

# Minority protection: When concern crosses borders but not streets

VISHAL R CHORADIYA

The recent protest outside the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi aimed to express moral outrage. Members of Hindutva organisations, waving saffron flags and shouting slogans, even attempted to storm the diplomatic mission to protest the killing of Dipu Chandra Das, a Hindu garment worker in Bangladesh who was lynched by a mob following allegations of blasphemy.

The brutality of the crime is undeniable. According to police and media, Das was beaten to death, and his body was later set on fire. The killing warrants unequivocal condemnation, and concern for minority safety anywhere is both legitimate and necessary.

In India, the outrage manifested in widespread protests. Supporters of the Vishva Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal broke barricades and clashed with police near the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi. Demonstrations were also reported in Bhopal, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Jammu and Kashmir, with slogans demanding "safety for Hindus in Bangladesh" and appeals to the prime minister to "bring Bangladeshi Hindus to India" or ensure their protection.

Yet the timing, tone and provenance of these protests render them deeply ironic and politically hollow.

In the same period that Hindutva groups claimed guardianship over Hindu minorities abroad, their own affiliates and supporters were implicated in a wave of intimidation and violence against Christians across India, particularly around Christmas. This contradiction exposes a credibility crisis in politics that claims to speak for vulnerable communities while presiding over, or enabling, harassment of minorities at home.

What lends the recent protests a performative quality is the domestic record of the protesters themselves. For years, Muslims—India's largest minority—have borne the brunt of mob violence, lynchings and institutional discrimination at the hands of Hindutva groups, often with little accountability from authorities.

More recently, violence against Christians has surged, particularly during the Christmas season, signalling that the threat has widened to include other minorities. Once a broadly shared public festival in much of India, Christmas now routinely coincides with reports of church disruptions, prayer meetings halted, and mobs entering private homes alleging illegal conversions. In 2025 alone, monitoring groups such as the United Christian Forum reported over 700 incidents of such attacks on Christians by November.

In Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur, a Christmas feast organised for visually impaired children became the site of public assault. A BJP district vice president, Anju Bhargava, was filmed verbally abusing and striking a visually impaired woman, accusing organisers of conversion, even as a police officer looked on. Children present said the event involved only a meal.

In another Jabalpur church, men shouting "Jai Shri Ram" disrupted prayers with similar accusations. In Chhattisgarh, churches were burned and Christian homes destroyed following a dispute over the burial of a Hindu man whose son had converted to Christianity. In Rajasthan's Dungarpur district, members of the RSS and Bajrang Dal disrupted a Sunday Mass at St Joseph's Catholic Church, confronting clergy and worshippers with allegations of forced conversions.

In Odisha, vendors selling Santa costumes were threatened into closing their stalls, and delivery workers dressed as Santa Claus faced intimidation. In Bhubaneswar, a pastor and his pregnant wife were attacked inside their church and forced to trample on Bibles and chant the names of Hindu gods — an incident that went viral and sparked public outcry.

In Kerala's Palakkad, an RSS-affiliated man reportedly attacked children performing carols, destroying their musical instruments. In Delhi's Lajpat Nagar, women and children wearing Santa Claus hats were harassed in public by men allegedly linked to the Bajrang Dal. In Haridwar, Hindu organisations issued directives effectively banning Christmas celebrations in hotels and shops, prompting even a government-run hotel to cancel a planned event.

These incidents cannot be dismissed as spontaneous mob action. What connects them is organised ideological authority. They are emboldened by formal statements—including one from the VHP urging Hindus not to celebrate Christmas—framed as cultural "awakening". Shops and institutions are pressured to shun a festival that, for many Indians regardless of faith, has been part of the social calendar.

Broadly, this is justified in the language of opposing "conversion". India's Constitution guarantees the right to propagate religion while prohibiting forced conversion. Several states have enacted laws criminalising conversion by inducement. In practice, these laws have increasingly become instruments of vigilantism.

Against this backdrop, the prime minister participated in a Christmas morning service at the Cathedral Church of the Redemption in New Delhi and shared greetings for peace and harmony on social media. But they lacked an explicit denunciation of the attacks that unfolded across the country in the preceding days—and, more importantly, there had been little evidence of sustained police action against those responsible. Recurring inaction can be read as tacit approval, undercutting official appeals for peace and harmony.

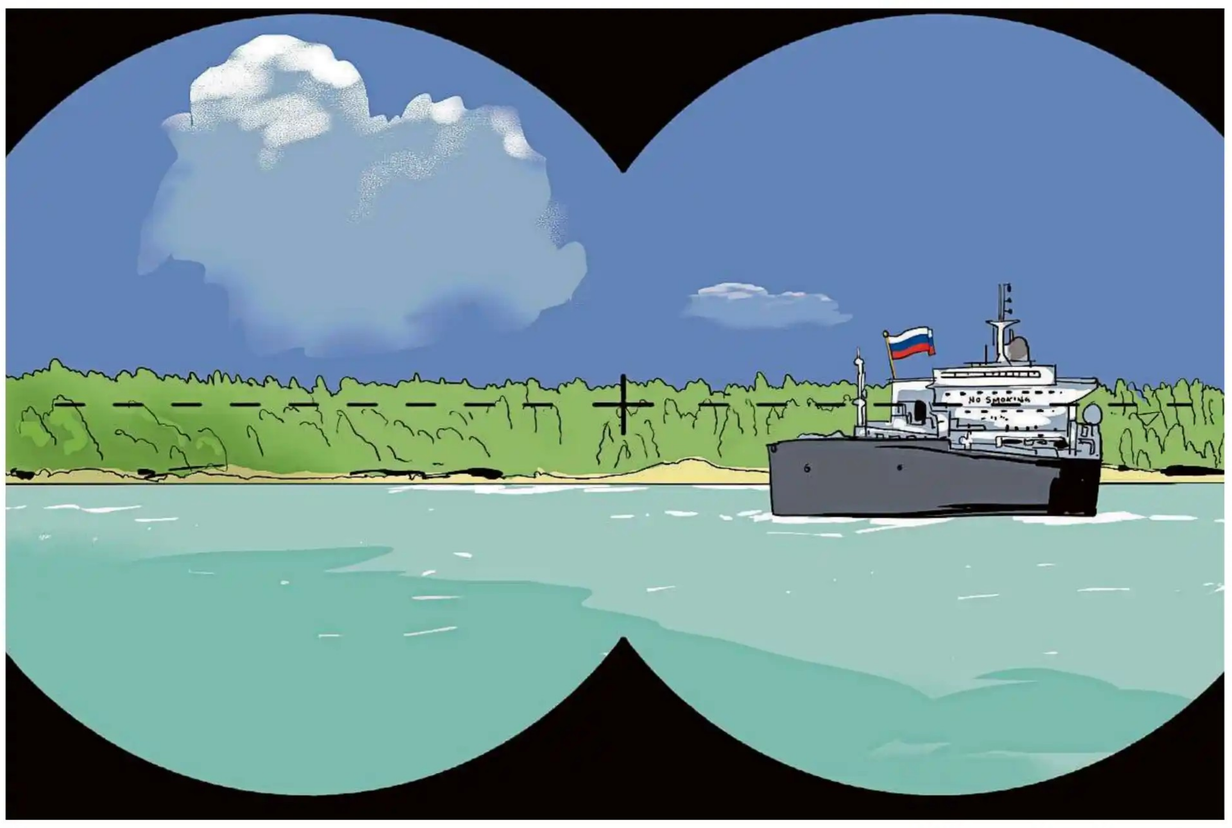
Moral authority in matters of minority rights is not established through protests outside foreign embassies. It is built through consistent conduct at home. When expressions of solidarity are extended only to those who share a particular faith, they risk shifting from a defence of human rights to an instrument of communal mobilisation.

Protesting violence against Hindus in Bangladesh while tolerating—or even encouraging—the intimidation of Muslims and Christians in India does little to advance the cause of minority protection. Instead, it undermines credibility, deepens distrust, and fuels a cycle of grievance and retaliation that further endangers minorities across the region.

*(The writer is assistant professor at the Department of Professional Studies - School of Commerce, Finance and Accountancy, Christ Deemed to be University)*

## The Marinera, which was seized by the US, isn't the only ship from the 'shadow fleet' of oil tankers to switch lately to a Russian identity, seeking protection

PAUL SONNE AND MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

# With Russian flags, 'shadow fleet' edges into the light

The shadow fleet is stepping out of the shadows.

As the US military chased a dilapidated oil tanker away from Venezuela and across the Atlantic Ocean in recent days, the fugitive ship changed its identity. Previously known as the Bella 1, the vessel rebranded as the Marinera. It no longer claimed to come from Guyana. Its new flag, painted hastily on the hull by the crew in the middle of the chase, was the Russian tricolour.

The ship's harried assumption of a Russian identity was probably intended to deter the United States from pursuing the vessel and to raise the spectre of a Russian response to any seizure, according to maritime experts. The US military proceeded anyway and intercepted the ship Wednesday in the waters between Iceland and Scotland. Russia has not mounted a significant response.

Still, the ship's embrace of the Russian flag is part of a broader trend in which so-called shadow tanker vessels have sought the imprimatur of Russian protection as Western nations have stepped up enforcement against the illicit oil trade around the globe.

Five tankers that have operated recently in Venezuelan waters, including the Marinera, have switched their flags to Russia in recent days, according to a New York Times analysis. All of the vessels have been subjected to US sanctions for shipping either Iranian or Russian oil.

Last month, 17 shadow fleet tankers took on the Russian flag, according to Lloyd's List, a maritime intelligence and data firm, and more than 40 have done so since June. In one incident last year, the Russian military directly intervened, sending a fighter jet as a shot across the bow to Estonia when it stopped one of the tankers.

"Essentially, there is a flight to security here," said Richard Meade, the editor-in-chief of Lloyd's List. "Having cycled through four or five fake flags, we are seeing ships now essentially register to Russia."

For years, aged shadow vessels, like the Marinera, have provided a lifeline to states such as Venezuela, Iran and Russia, as well as to nonstate actors such as drug cartels, allowing them to evade sanctions by covertly shipping oil around the world. The ships often fly flags of convenience from places like the Cook Islands, or no flag at all, masking the involvement of the countries employing them.

"The whole point of the shadow fleet previously — there was this element of plausible deniability for the Russians," Meade said. "It was opaquely owned out of a shell company in Dubai. It was registered to a Seychelles trust. It said it had insurance, but nobody saw any real paperwork. These were not things Russia wanted to say were our ships."

Such a scheme, though, also made the ships vulnerable.

US officials said the Guyana flag that the Bella 1 was registered under was fake. That made it a stateless vessel susceptible to boarding under international law when the Coast Guard approached the ship in the Caribbean Sea late on Dec. 20. The vessel is believed to have been heading to pick up oil in Venezuela before it turned around and fled.

As the Coast Guard gave chase, the ship was added to the Russian Maritime Register of Shipping. Russia then made a formal diplomatic request that the United States stop its pursuit.

"The risk if you board a vessel flagged in the Cook Islands is minuscule because the Cook Islands are just not going to retaliate in any way," said Elisabeth Braw, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council who has written about shadow fleets. "But if you board a Russia-flagged vessel, you should have thought about it before going ahead," because the risk of retaliation is much higher.

The deterrence, this time, didn't work.

Moscow dispatched a Russian naval vessel, presumably to provide an escort. But the U.S. military boarded the tanker anyway Wednesday, as American forces intercepted the ship before any Russian vessels arrived.

What Russia might do next is unclear. The Russian government's initial response was muted, with terse statements put out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Transport.

The tepid reaction comes as Russia invests in improving relations with President Donald Trump, who has been leading an effort to broker an end to the war in Ukraine and has at times sided with Russia's demands. In recent months, Russia has deliberately played down matters of controversy between Russia and the United States, looking to avoid spoiling the rapprochement.

For years, the Kremlin has denied using shadow vessels to transport energy products, even as experts have identified hundreds of ships employed by Russia to do just that. An analysis published two years into the war against Ukraine by the Kyiv School of Economics found that nearly 70% of Russia's oil was being transported by shadow tankers, a phenomenon that began in 2022 as a response to Western sanctions.

By putting its flags on ships, Russia is now "saying we are connected to the shadow fleet," Braw said.

The Marinera had been subjected to sanctions by the United States for transporting Iranian oil, and the ship is not known to have carried Russian oil in recent years, according to data from Kpler and TankerTrackers.com, two companies that monitor global oil shipments.

While the United States seized that vessel without incident, Russia has been more aggressive about protecting shadow fleet ships that are closer to its shores.

Last May, Estonian authorities attempted to stop a tanker called the Jaguar, which was in the Baltic Sea and which Estonia had deemed stateless. Russia sent a fighter jet as a show of force to protect the ship, which had previously loaded Russian oil and sailed to India. The Estonian navy escorted the ship to Russian waters.

"There has been a lot of contention in Europe about what to do with these tankers," said Gonzalo Saiz Erausquin, a research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, a defence and security think tank in Britain. "They have never taken such a hard step."

The European Union and Britain have imposed sanctions on nearly 600 shadow vessels linked to Russia's illicit oil trade. After a series of episodes in which shadow vessels were linked to damage inflicted on undersea cables, countries have also begun to resort to military action.

In December 2024, Finnish commandos commandeered an oil tanker suspected of severing several cables, and last October the French navy boarded a suspected shadow oil tanker.

Braw said the U.S. action to take control of the Marinera, while probably legal, could have unintended consequences, including potentially putting American ships in danger.

"On the oceans what is clear is that what is legal was not always wise," she said. "What it does is send a message to every other country in the world, especially countries less law-abiding than, say, Scandinavia, that they can take action against vessels on the high seas, and who is going to stop them?"

**The New York Times**

# Who really benefits from the gig economy?

MOUSUMI ROY

Gig economy, sharing economy, passion economy, or, as some prefer to call it, the hustle economy. All the latest technology-powered "disruptions" of 21st-century capitalism share a principle that, ironically enough, was first espoused by Karl Marx, the arch-enemy of everything capitalist.

As Marx put it, "Only liberated workers with control of production can soak up the full spiritual and financial benefits of their labour."

This idea underpins a host of new-age businesses such as Uber, Patreon, Airbnb, and local delivery apps, too numerous to name. Their grand promise was seductive and straightforward: you could control who you wanted to be, what you wanted to produce and deliver, how much you wanted to work, and even who you wanted to sell to.

Turn two spare rooms into a guest house and become a hotelier. Teach cooking via Patreon or Etsy. Put a car lying idle to work through Uber. Ride a motorbike and deliver pizzas. These are undeniably clever ideas, capable of creating work for someone who does not know what else to do. But can they replace old-fashioned employment or entrepreneurship, and I use that much-maligned word in its older sense, meaning self-employment, even something as basic as running a *paan-beedi* shop as a way of earning a stable and reasonably predictable income on which a family can be supported through its life?

A decade or more after the euphoria created by Uber and Airbnb, it remains unclear whether this "new" economy represents a triumph of technology and human creativity or a failure of society to produce enough conventional employment.

What is clear is that it has dismantled many traditional businesses that once provided regular employment, such as taxi companies and neighbourhood shops, for instance, often by offering mouth-watering prices to consumers. The more complex question is what this has done to those who produce or deliver what is being consumed.

Is the platform a tool that allows the worker to liberate herself, or is the worker the tool used by the tech executives who built these platforms? Has the rise of gig and contract work been driven by worker preference or by venture capital chasing returns in a world awash with cheap money? In other words, is Uber a symptom of a deeper malaise or the beginning of a new dawn?

The question becomes sharper during crises, such as the recent global shutdown. During such times, the gig economy has undeniably provided a means of basic survival for many. But when the economy reopens, will it offer a decent living to those dispossessed of traditional employment, and to how many?

We now live in what is often called the gig economy, where people stitch together livelihoods from multiple part-time jobs. Sometimes this is by choice; usually it is not. The labour market increasingly favours short-term contracts and freelance work over permanent employment.

Crucially, the gig economy is designed to shift risk from the enterprise to the service provider. By doing so, it reduces business costs and increases profitability. Labour costs, such as healthcare, retirement benefits, and statutory contributions, quietly disappear. Wealth is syphoned upwards.

The most unsettling aspect of this model is how successfully companies have recast themselves as heroes. Uber, in particular, cloaks itself in the language of "consumer choice" and "flexibility" while developing autonomous vehicles that will one day make its own drivers redundant. Those same "independent contractors" will then discover the second shock of gig life, the absence of any real safety net.

The gig economy does not create economic security; it erodes it. It is not designed to expand choice but to minimise costs. It does not grant workers autonomy; it transfers uncertainty to them. Over time, its net effect will be a drain on economic activity, a reality that will become apparent soon enough.

Workers in the gig economy are not soaking up the benefits. Contrarily, they have lost all the benefits of a stable job (people see in the bastion of capitalism, the US). They don't have a high income, vacation, sick leave, or any retirement benefits. Moreover, not everyone can manage their retirement accounts and will thus be at the mercy of their brokers or financial advisers.

*(The author writes about politics, material culture, and economic history)*

## OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

**50 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 1976**

### 'No more right to move courts'

New Delhi, January 8
President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed today issued an order under Clause (1) of Article 359 of the Constitution, suspending the right of any person to move any court for the enforcement of the fundamental rights enshrined in Article 19 during Emergency. The order also stipulates that all proceedings pending in any court for the enforcement of the rights shall remain suspended for the period of the Emergency. On June 27, 1975, the President had issued a notification under which the rights conferred by Articles 14, 21 and 22 had been suspended.

**25 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 2001**

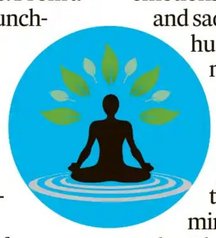
### George denies Samata split

Mysore, Jan 8
The Samata Party leader and Union Defence Minister George Fernandes today denied that the party was heading for a split. Delivering the inaugural address at the two-day plenary session of the Samata Party, which began here today, Mr Fernandes said the six MPs led by Bihar state unit chief Raghunath Jha, who had earlier chosen to keep away from the meet, were on their way to the City to participate in the plenary session. Mr Fernandes said he had spoken to the six MPs and had convinced them to attend the session.

## OASIS | ROHINI S MURTHY

# Learning to guard the mind's door

As a kid, I had taken the literal meaning of the proverb grass is greener on the other side, by often peeping into my neighbour's compound and admiring their manicured lawn. When my mother caught me doing this, I innocently replied, 'We need to hire a gardener to make our grass as green as theirs.' She smiled at my childish banter. But life had a way of showing me the true meaning of this adage when a chance meeting with a former colleague paved the way to friendship. As weeks rolled by, the envious side of my new friend surfaced: "Oh, you are so lucky to have a good husband and understanding people around you. Look at my life; it didn't turn out the way I planned." Our conversation, or rather her tirade of self-pity, intensified over time. From a friend, I soon turned into a punching bag and an agony aunt to her. I repeatedly pleaded with her to let go of her perception bias. But my requests fell on deaf ears as she continued to begrudge others instead of being grateful for life's little blessings.



Listening to her long list of complaints would drain my mental energy, and soon enough her pessimism started rubbing off on me. Yes! Just like positive people in our lives can rouse the best traits in us, interacting with negative people can wear down our emotions, leading to frustration, anger, and sadness. Thankfully, my astute husband noticed the changes in me and gently admonished, "Despite your best intentions, you are unable to change your friend's mindset; instead, you are letting her turbulent thoughts rob your peace of mind." That moment, I realised that I had failed miserably in setting boundaries and stepping back from this one-sided friendship.

Constant comparison, regret over past choices, and displeasure with minor setbacks can be glaring signs of the 'grass is always greener on the other side' mindset. This is not an irreversible syndrome. Daily practice of gratitude, mindfulness and setting realistic goals is known to be beneficial. Unfortunately, my (former) friend remained obstinate in her quest for a perfect life or, more so, her illusion of perfection. Though I severed ties with her in the nick of time, this relationship taught me to value my mind as a sacred space and be cautious about who I spend my time with – this life lesson is beautifully summarised in Mahatma Gandhi's quote, 'I will not let anyone walk through my mind with dirty feet.'

## CM: Will do everything to oppose Kerala's Malayalam Bill

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Karnataka "will do everything" to oppose a law proposed by Kerala that will make Malayalam the first language even in Kannada-medium schools.

The proposed Malayalam Language Bill "strikes at the heart of linguistic freedom and lived reality of Kerala's border districts, especially Kasaragod," he said in a statement.

"For children of linguistic minorities, language is not a 'subject' alone. It is identity, dignity, access and opportunity. When the state compels a single 'first language' choice, it burdens students who learn in their mother tongue, disrupts academic progression and confidence, narrows freedom to choose a second language, and weakens minority-run institutions and minority-medium education ecosystems," the CM said.

He said people, for long, have studied in Kannada-medium schools. They rely on Kannada in daily life, he said. "Local representatives have long pointed out that a large majority, figures even cited around 70% in parts of the district, prefer Kannada learning and the Kannada script ecosystem. This is not a threat to Malayalam, it is a testament to India's plural culture, where languages coexist without fear," he said.

Citing Articles 29, 30, 350A and 350B of the Constitution, he said no government can "trample" rights of linguistic minorities.

"Kerala has every right to promote Malayalam with pride. Karnataka does the same for Kannada, which is our heartbeat and our identity. But promotion cannot become an imposition," Siddaramaiah said, urging the Kerala government to withdraw the Bill.

"If this Bill is passed, Karnataka will do everything to oppose it, using all the rights granted by our Constitution," the CM said. "We will stand with every Kannadiga, with people of Kasaragod, with linguistic minorities and with all those who believe that India belongs equally to every language and every voice," he said.

The CM said Malayalam, Kannada & "every mother tongue" should flourish. "That is the India our Constitution promised & the India we must defend," he said.

# Special legislature session to demand MGNREGA restoration

## Centre denying poor their job right, charges Siddu

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced on Thursday that a two-day special session of the legislature would be convened soon to pass a resolution demanding the restoration of the UPA's flagship Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Addressing a meeting of Congress legislators, Siddaramaiah alleged that the BJP-led Union government was attempting to scrap MGNREGA, a scheme introduced during the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government.

He said the programme was designed to generate employment in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of work annually to the rural poor, particularly Dalits, women and farmers.

"The BJP-ruled Centre is denying the poor their right to employment. By removing Mahatma Gandhi's name from the new scheme, VB-G RAM G, the Centre is deliberately creating confusion. The BJP is killing Mahatma Gandhi a second time," the chief minister alleged, adding that the Sangh Parivar had "tutored" the BJP. Siddaramaiah further claimed that the Sangh Parivar could not tolerate the empowerment of the poor and that scrapping MGNREGA would cause injustice to nearly 28 crore Dalits who depended on the scheme for their livelihood.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Home Minister G Parameshwara, at a meeting of Congress legislators, convened to organise MGNREGA Bachao Sangram in Bengaluru on Thursday.

He called upon Congress leaders and workers to launch a strong struggle against the move. Exhorting party legislators, he said a mass movement should be initiated to ensure the re-implementation of the MGNREGA Act. "Every gram panchayat member should reach out to NREGA workers. Legislators must create awareness among the people, turning this into a people's movement," he said.

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar alleged that the new Act was difficult to implement, as decision-making powers had shifted from panchayats to Delhi and the states were expected to bear 40 per cent of the funding.

"We will hold a 5 km padayatra in each taluk from January 26 to February 2. National leaders will also participate in these padayatra," he said, and added, "The ministers will hold press conferences at the district headquarters for three days. Awareness campaigns will be held in each panchayat."

## Cabinet approves 'B' to 'A' khata conversion across the state

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Cabinet decided on Thursday to convert 'B' Khatas to 'A' Khatas across all urban local bodies in the state, a move that will be applicable to 10 lakh unauthorised properties.

The 'B'-to-'A' khata conversion has been launched already under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

Addressing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said: "We are introducing this in other districts based on the same concept used in GBA. The same parameters being used in GBA will be used here as well." He said the process of regularisation was there since the "beginning", adding that it had only been "enhanced" now.

The proposal aims to control unauthorised developments and bring citizen-friendly reforms and public interest into the administrative system. It intends to bring the already illegally constructed layouts under the purview of the law, with the objective of completely stopping the creation and sale of sites without obtaining layout approval from the competent authorities," a document by the Urban Department Department says. As per the note, such properties remain outside the purview of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961, and permission is not being granted by urban local bodies for additional construction, reconstruction and demolition of properties already built without approval.

To remove this obstacle, the move intends to bring these properties under the purview of the 1961 Act. According to sources, this move is expected to increase the revenue, since the 'B' Khata sites only pay 25% tax instead of 100% as in the case of 'A' Khata sites.

The Cabinet also decided to enforce "Akka Pade" scheme in collaboration with the Home Department in all 31 districts and five police commissionerates. It was also decided to release 33 life imprisonment convicts in central jails in the state before the completion of their term for "good conduct". Of this, two convicts will be released after obtaining the approval of the Union Home Department.

The Cabinet also approved a proposal to build statues of Mahatma Gandhi, former prime ministers Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi in the Kalaburagi City Corporation.

## Corruption worth Rs 11L cr in NREGA under UPA: Joshi

BENGALURU, DHNS

Union Minister for Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi on Thursday alleged that corruption worth Rs 11 lakh crore had taken place in MGNREGA during UPA's tenure.

Addressing a news conference, the minister said, "The Congress has not denied these allegations pertaining to its tenure. According to the CAG report of 2013, there were 4.33 lakh fake job cards in the country. Earlier, work was being done using JCB machines. To put an end to all these illegalities and loopholes, we have brought the VB-G RAM G Act."

Defending the Act, Joshi said, "To prevent such illegal and widespread corruption, the central government has implemented the VB-G RAM G Act. Under this, AI technology and GPS tracking have been introduced and the quality of work will be monitored. This has become a headache for Congress and those who were siphoning money from MGNREGA, forcing them to oppose it"

He said, "Congress is saying that giving 60 days of leave to labourers under VB-G RAM G will harm agriculture. Were they given 365 days of work during UPA's tenure?"

Joshi said, in the UPA rule, there was no digital payment for MGNREGA workers.

Under VB-G RAM G, wages must be paid within 14 days. Otherwise, penalties will be imposed. The monitoring responsibility has been given to gram panchayats. Work details must be disclosed every week. Whoever commits mistakes will be punished. Transparency has been systematically brought in, Joshi said.

On Karnataka, Joshi said, "In 10 years, we gave Rs 8.53 lakh crore to the state under MGNREGA. During Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's tenure, the highest corruption in MGNREGA happened in the state. Even 80-year-old people were shown as laborers to draw money."

### Donations to National Herald highest

**On donations to National Herald by Congress party, he said Siddaramaiah was intellectually bankrupt. "Congress has given highest funds to National Herald compared to all other national newspapers. This shows the CM's intellectual bankruptcy," he said.**

# JD(S) merging with BJP, it will help Congress, claims Shivakumar

## 'Having only two parties will benefit state's politics'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar claimed on Thursday that the JD(S) would "soon" merge with the BJP, which he said would benefit Congress.

Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Congress president, was speaking at an event where he inducted JD(S) leader C Govindaraju from Chamrajpet. Govindaraju was the defeated JD(S) candidate from the Chamrajpet segment in the 2023 Assembly election, polling 15% of the votes.

"Soon, the JD(S) will merge with the BJP. It's good for us (Congress) if that happens. We can fight against one party," Shivakumar said.

"Right now, there are three parties on paper, but only two really count."

It is on the grapevine that the JD(S) will merge with the BJP ever since both parties formed an alliance for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. "Having only two parties will benefit the state's politics," Shivakumar argued.

"Leaders from BJP and JD(S) are telling me that a decision may happen soon."

### Bipolarity in the state's politics

The weakening of the JD(S) in the 2023 Assembly election signalled bipolarity in the state's politics.

The JD(S) suffered a massive setback by winning a mere 19 seats and losing ground in much of the old Mysuru region, its strongest turf. Its vote share shrunk to 13.3% in 2023 from 18.36% in 2018.

Shivakumar said the JD(S) wants to have a "friendly fight" with the BJP. "This is in order to save their party. Please, don't have a friendly fight. Join together. A friendly fight will only create confusion among your party workers," he said.

### B'luru polls: 700+ ticket aspirants

Congress has issued a total of 759 applications to ticket aspirants for the impending elections to the five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

"A total of 247 applications have been issued for the Bengaluru West Corporation, 199 for Bengaluru North, 129 in Bengaluru South, 106 in Bengaluru Central and 78 in Bengaluru East," Shivakumar said. He asked aspirants to submit their forms in the next couple of days.

### Observer in Assam: No option, says KPCC president

**Reacting to the Congress appointing him as an observer at the poll-bound Assam, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D K Shivakumar said: "I don't have any option. I've to do whatever the party tells. Being a Congressman, I've to work for the party." His appointment came amidst speculation over his leadership tussle with CM Siddaramaiah.**

## Symbolic change or sign of good prospects?: JD(S) to tweak logo

### Party comes full circle, wheel to make a comeback

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Deve Gowda-led JD(S) is all set to make changes to the party's symbol.

A decision in this regard was taken at the party's core committee meeting, to tweak the symbol as advised by Gowda. Sources said that the wheel from the party's previous symbol - in its earlier avatar as Janata Dal - will be added to the existing one, woman farmer carrying paddy heap on her head.

Following a dispute with Janata Dal (United) over the undivided Janata Dal's original symbol of a farmer ploughing land, JD(S) was allotted the farmer driving the tractor symbol. In 2001, to avoid confusion with a similar symbol used by other parties that were consuming its votes, JD(S) switched to the current one.

"Deve Gowda felt that the current symbol looks stagnant and adding the wheel, a previous symbol of the undivided party, will make it look being on the move and gives positive vibes," said a senior leader of JD(S).

A man dressed as the woman carrying paddy heap on her head, the JD(S) symbol, is a regular appearance in the party's election campaigns.

Some even said the change was the result of the advice of astrologers.

"It is not the complete replacement of the symbol. Instead, it's just a re-visiting, by adding the wheel to it," sources said. As per information shared by party sources, an application will be filed before the election commission, requesting for change soon.


**ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿ., ಮಂಡ್ಯ**

ನಂ. ಡಿಸಿಸಿಬಿ/ಕಟ್ಟಡ/46/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 08–01–2026

**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)**

ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನ ಕೆ ಆರ್ ಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಶಾಖೆಯ ನೂತನ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಜಾಲತಾಣ https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 16–01–2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5–00 ಗಂಟೆ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆಂದು ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.

| | |
|---|---|
| Tender No. MDCCB/2025-26/ BD/WORK_INDENT8 | Construction of K R Pete Branch First Floor building |

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ನಿ., ಮಂಡ್ಯ



**ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿಯಮಿತ**

ನಂ.4, ಪಂಪಮಹಾಕವಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜಪೇಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 018

ದೂರವಾಣಿ:26702504 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ksccfltd1964@gmail.com

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕರಾಸಗ್ರಾಮ/ಆಡಳಿತ/ನೇ.ನೇ/01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.01.2026

**ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ (ನಿ)., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು **ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ವೃಂದದ ಒಟ್ಟು 34 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗಾಗಿ** ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಗದಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ ಪಾವತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ / ಅಂಚೆ / ಕೊರಿಯರ್ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವಿವರ / ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ:

| ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ. | ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ಹೆಸರು | ವೇತನ ಶ್ರೇಣಿ | ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣ | ಒಟ್ಟು ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | ಫಾರ್ಮಾಸಿಸ್ಟ್ | 25800–52650 | ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಉಳಿಕೆ ವೃಂದದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು | 07 |
| 2. | ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುಮಾಸ್ತರು | 21400–45300 | ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಉಳಿಕೆ ವೃಂದದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು | 10 |
| 3. | i. ವಿಕ್ರಯ ಸಹಾಯಕರು | 19950–37900 | ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಉಳಿಕೆ ವೃಂದದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು | 16 |
| | ii. ವಿಕ್ರಯ ಸಹಾಯಕರು | 19950–37900 | ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಕ.ಕ. ವೃಂದದ (371ಜೆ) ಮೀಸಲಿರುವ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು | 01 |

ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆ, ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆ ವಿಧಾನ, ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ, ಒಳಮೀಸಲಾತಿ, ವಯೋಮಿತಿ / ವಯೋಮಿತಿ ಸಡಿಲಿಕೆ, ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ, ಆಯ್ಕೆ ವಿಧಾನ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ, ಲಿಖಿತ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ (ನಿ)., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇದರ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://virtualofficeerp.com/ksccf2026** ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಲಿಂಕ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡು ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಆನ್–ಲೈನ್ (ON-LINE) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ.

- ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.01.2026**
- ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.02.2026**

ಸಹಿ/– ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು



**ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ರಾಯಚೂರು**

ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ: # 1–11–50/ಎ/ 14 & 15, ಸಿದ್ಧಾರ್ಥ ಕಾಲೋನಿ, ಲಾಯನ್ಸ್ ಕ್ಲಬ್ ಶಾಲೆ ಹಿಂದುಗಡೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು–584101.

ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eekwbraichur@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಜಮ/ಕಾಪಅ/ರಾವಿ/ತಾಶಾ/ಸ.ಅ/ಸಿರವಾರ/ಒ.ಹೆಚ್.ಟಿ/2025–26/1289 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.01.2026

**ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ**

ಬಿಡ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಲಾದ ಅರ್ಹತಾ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಫರ್ಮ್ಸ್ ರವರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸೂಚನೆ:– ಕಾರಣಾಂತರಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೂಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಇ–ಪ್ರೂಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.: KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT475 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. (ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ): 70,56,337–00.3) ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.: 1,41,000–00 4) ಟೆಂಟರ್ ಅವಧಿ: 12 ತಿಂಗಳು

**ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 07–01–2026 ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ. **2) ಬಿಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 21–01–2026 ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 17:30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. **3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 23–01–2026 ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ. **4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು.

DIP/RCR/646/KSMCA/648/2025-26 ಕನನೀಸ ಮತ್ತು ಒಚ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.



**ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ**

**ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರಕಛೇರಿ,**

**ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ**

ಸಂ: 13/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.01.2026

**ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ KW-1/2ರ ರೀತಿ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.01.2026 ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.31 ಘಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.01.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 2/3 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 2 (ಎರಡು) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.29.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.6.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

**ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: 1)** ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ /ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. **2)** ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾ.ಇಂ.,ಲೋ.ಇ., ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ



**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**DIVISION KOPPAL.** Phone No:08539-222318.email:eepwdkpl2@gmail.com

IFT No. PWD:DK:TR: KW-4:2025-26: 3511 Date: 06.01.2026

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)**

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents KW-3&4 on http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal. Head of Account : 4059-80-051-0-60-132 CMIDP / 2025-26. Two cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. 08539 – 222318 and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2 Works (Work Indent No: 31576 & 31575) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders **17-01-2026** Time 16.00, Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid **19-01-2026** Time 16.00. Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid **20-01-2026** Time 16.30 (Minimum & Estimate Maximum Amount Rs. **300.00** Lakhs & Rs.**350.00** Lakhs respectively. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Date & Time for Pre-bid meeting, Tender Queries/ Clarification & Other information as mentioned in KPPP Portal. Any changes either in tender date or any other condition tenderers can view in KPPP portal.

DIPR/Koppal/604/KSMCA/2025-26 Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Koppal



**TUNGABHADRA COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Office of the Executive Engineer, CADA Division, Munirbad. State : Karnataka

No. : CADA./T.B.P./E.E./D.B./TN-6/2025-26/656 Date : 06-01-2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

**KW-4 (Two Cover System) (Only through E-procurement System)**

**On behalf of the Administrator CADA TBP Munrabad the Executive Engineer CADA TBP Munirabad** the undersigned invites in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Item Rate in Two Cover System (KW-4) under **H/A 4705 Bridge CUM Barrage Work** under this Division.

**Indent No. : 136. Downloading tender form from 06-01-2026, Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Date : 14-01-2026 @ 11.00 a.m. at EE CADA TBP Munirabad, Last Date for Submission of Tender Document upto Date : 21-01-2026 upto 5.00 p.m. details can be viewed from Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in & Date of Opening of Technical Bid on Date : 22-01-2026 at 5.30 p,m., & Financial Bid on Date : 05-02-2026 After 5.30 p.m., or after obtaining approval to Technical Bid. The Officer Competent to accept the tender shall have the right to reject any all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.**

For more information visit to Website given above or contact at office in all working days during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
CADA TBP Division, Munirabad.

DIPR/Koppal/606/Manipal/2025-26

# Sugar factory blast: four more die, toll rises to 7

## One worker critical; Rs 20 lakh aid each to victims' kin

BELAGAVI, DHNS

With four more injured workers succumbing to burns, the death toll in the sugar factory boiler explosion at Markumbi in Bailhongal taluk, Belagavi district, reached seven on Thursday. Seven of the eight injured in the explosion died while the lone survivor of the blast is in a critical condition, police sources said.

The explosion occurred when the valves of Actuated Valve Control Packages (AVCP) were being replaced at compartment-1 of Inamdar Sugars on Wednesday. Eight people suffered severe burns in the incident.

Akshay Chopade (48) of Rabakavi-Banahatti, Deepak Munavalli (31) of Nesaragi and Sudarshan Banoshi (25) of Khanapur taluk died on Wednesday.

Four others, who were undergoing treatment at KLE Hospital in Belagavi, succumbed to burns on Thursday.

The deceased are: Gurunath Thammannavar (38) of Mareguddi in Bagalkot district, Bharath Sarawadi (27) of Godachinamulki, Manjunath Kajagar (28) of Bailhongal taluk and Manjunath Teradal (31) of Hoolikatti in Athani taluk.

Raghavendra Giriyal (36) of Gilihosur in Gokak taluk is said to be in critical condition.

The family members of the deceased workers have blamed negligence by the factory management for the tragedy. Inamdar Sugars is jointly owned by Vikram Inamdar, son of former minister D B Inamdar, Prabhakar Kore and Vijay Metgud.

Meanwhile, the police have booked three technical heads of Inamdar Sugars for causing deaths due to negligence.

The grieving family members of the deceased workers wait outside the mortuary of KLE Hospital in Belagavi to receive the bodies, on Thursday. DH PHOTO

### Tech heads booked

According to Belagavi SP K Ramarajan, cases have been registered against general manager technical head V Subburathinam, general manager engineering head Praveenkumar Taki and Deputy General Manager Process S Vinodkumar for failing to take precautionary measures.

"During the preliminary investigations, it came to the fore that the three technical heads did not take precautionary measures, which led to the boiling sugarcane juice spilling on the employees while replacing the valves on the fourth storey in the factory. SOPs have to be implemented and followed by the factory. Management, which includes its directors if found violating SOPs, would be booked," he said.

The family members of deceased worker Manjunath Kajgar, along with members of Raitha Sangha, keeping the body of the worker, protested at Chennamma Circle in Bailhongal on Thursday, demanding a compensation of Rs 1 crore each to the kin of the deceased workers.

They blamed the negligence of the factory owners and the management for the death of the workers.

They expressed anguish against the owners and the management for not visiting the families of the deceased workers to express their condolences.

The agitators gheraoed the manager of the factory Ravindra Pattanashetty, when he arrived at the protest site. The manager said the factory management has decided to pay a compensation of Rs 15 lakh each to the families of the victims.

But the agitators were in no mood to relent. They demanded that the victims' families be paid a relief of Rs 1 crore. The Raitha Sangha called off the protest when the manager announced that an ex gratia of Rs 20 lakh would be paid to the kin of deceased workers.

# Equality before law: India's constitutional promise

CONSTITUTION IS LIGHT

Curated by DH DECCAN HERALD | ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

The Right to Equality is the first of the six fundamental rights enshrined in Articles 14 to 18 of the Indian Constitution. They establish equality before the law. This group of fundamental rights enshrines the different facets of equality under the Indian Constitution

According to Article 14, every individual is equal in the eyes of the law, and the state must provide equal treatment to all. It declares that "the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India".

The desire for equality and liberty has been the motive of many revolutions. An effective democracy cannot be achieved unless equality in all spheres is realised in full measure. However, a vision for complete equality among men and women in all spheres of life is an ideal on the horizon. It can be realised only by the march of humanity along the long and winding road of economic, social and political progress.

The constitution and the laws of a country can at best assure its citizens only a limited measure of equality. The framers of the Indian Constitution were fully aware of this. Therefore, while they gave political and legal equality the status of a fundamental right, economic and social equality was largely left within the scope of the Directive Principles of State Policy.

The Right to Equality protects not only against discriminatory laws passed by legislatures but also prevents the arbitrary discretion of the executive. The executive has vast powers in enforcing laws, rules and regulations. However, the equality clause prevents such power from being used in a discriminatory manner. For instance, the issue of licences regulating various trade and business activities cannot be left to the discretion of the licensing authority. The law regulating such activities should lay down the principles under which the licensing authority has to act in the grant of these licences.

According to Article 15, the state is prohibited from discriminating against any citizen. It also encompasses, to a limited extent, the actions of private individuals. Article 15 (1) states, "The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them. Further, a citizen cannot be denied 'access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment or the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of the general public" It also prohibits discrimination based upon one's place of birth.

Article 15 has, however, two notable exceptions in its application. The first of these permits the State to make special provision for the benefit of women and children. The second allows the State to make any special provision for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The second exception was not in the original Constitution but was later added to it as a result of the First Amendment of the Constitution in 1951, introduced by Nehru to allow for special provisions for weaker sections of society without violating the right to equality.

Article 16 states that all citizens have an equal chance to secure public employment and appointments. The state is prohibited from discriminating based on the grounds mentioned in Article 15. In the first part of the Article, the general rule is laid down that there shall be equal opportunity for all citizens, wherever they are living, in matters of employment under the State, thereby emphasising the universality of Indian citizenship. The next section explains the general principle in detail. According to this, the State is prohibited from showing any discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, caste, race, sex, descent, place of birth or residence.

Exceptions to Article 16 of the Indian Constitution allow for positive discrimination in public employment. These include Article 16(3), which permits Parliament to impose residency requirements, and Article 16(4), (4A), and (4B), which allow for reservations for backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and carry-forward of unfilled reserved vacancies. Article 16(5) also makes an exception for religious or denominational institutions, allowing them to restrict certain offices to members of that religion or denomination.

Article 17 of the Indian Constitution abolishes untouchability, making its practice in any form a punishable offence and guaranteeing equal social status to all individuals.

Article 18 of the Indian Constitution, called "Abolition of Titles," prohibits the State from conferring any title, ensuring equality of status and preventing the creation of artificial hierarchies, privileged or aristocratic class within a democratic society. It also forbids citizens from accepting titles from foreign states.

The Right to Equality, elaborated in Articles 14 to 18, ensures that no individual becomes a victim of arbitrary discrimination and that equal opportunities reign across public life. While it guarantees political and legal equality, the journey towards complete social and economic equality is a work in progress. This fundamental right is the bedrock of justice and dignity, consolidating the democratic spirit of the Indian Constitution.

An Initiative by:

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
For the Educational, Social & Economic Upliftment of Scheduled Castes

In Association with:

# Mamata vs ED & BJP after raids on TMC's consultant

ED raids, From Page 1

Mamata, herself, will lead the rally.

The TMC, however, started protests across the state on Thursday itself.

The ED commenced searches at 10 premises — six in West Bengal and four in Delhi — early on Thursday, in connection with a PMLA case against a coal smuggling syndicate.

The raids covered I-PAC chief's residence and the firm's office in Kolkata.

The I-PAC has been working for the TMC since 2019 and played a key role in planning the party's campaign strategy for the 2021 Assembly elections as well as the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The firm is now preparing the party's campaign plan for this year's Assembly elections.

The ED, however, alleged that one hawala operator linked to the layering of proceeds of coal smuggling had facilitated transactions of "tens of crores of rupees" to the I-PAC.

Mamata arrived at the residence of Jain around noon, shortly after Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Verma reached the scene. She came out of the house after about 20 minutes with a file folder, laptop and phone. The TMC supremo told journalists on the scene that the ED raided the residence of the chief of her party's IT cell and his office to collect all documents and hard disks containing the party's strategy, as well as the list of candidates.

"Is it the duty of the ED? They are taking all our party documents," she said and went on to hit out at Shah, who had recently visited Kolkata to review the BJP's preparations for the elections in West Bengal. "Naughty and nasty home minister. The home minister, who cannot protect the country, is attempting to take away our party documents. If I raid the BJP party office, what will happen then?"

"They (ED officials) are attempting to take away all the documents containing my party's information. I rang up Pratik, came here, and am taking them (documents) away now," added Mamata.

She then drove to the I-PAC office, where the Director General of Police, Rajeev Kumar, and other top cops, as well as some TMC leaders, had already reached. Though the central paramilitary force personnel had blocked the entries and exits of the building, she went to the basement and took the elevator to the 11th floor, where the I-PAC office is located.

"The TMC is a registered political party, and we pay income tax. The BJP-led government at the Centre cannot bulldoze us using money and muscle power," she said, adding: "I dare the BJP to fight us politically if they want to win (West) Bengal".

The ED alleged that the chief minister, her aides, and the state police personnel forcibly removed physical documents and electronic evidence from the I-PAC office, too.

# Green guardian who put co-existence at heart of conservation

Gadgil, from Page 1

From here, he launched several research programmes in ecology and animal behaviour. In 1983, he founded the Centre for Ecological Sciences at IISc to study these topics across the country.

In parallel, he has been associated with many key policy initiatives ranging from mapping of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve to making of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 that empowers local communities to value and protect traditional knowledge. He considered indigenous communities as integral part of the ecosystem rather than threats.

"For the policymakers, he was the go-to person in conservation. But he always maintained that it is possible for people to coexist with nature and people's lives are more important," Raghavendra Gadagkar, a veteran IISc scientist who knew Gadgil since 1973, told *DH*.

This is the same philosophy that he followed when he was approached by the Karnataka government in the 1990 to assess the Western Ghats project. Gadgil engaged students and teachers from 28 colleges in the Ghat areas for field observations and talking to the locals. The result was a clearer understanding of local issues.

Gadgil's work mainly focused on the Western Ghats.

Even while chairing the central panel, he travelled extensively in the Western Ghats with his team interacting with locals before finalising his report. People were always at the heart of Gadgil's conservation philosophy. "In the 26 months I was Environment Minister, I turned to him every other day for guidance and advice. We had our differences too. Gadgil did not agree with my position on the existing wildlife protection law. He was of the view that a law that did not protect humans was unviable," said former Union Minister and Congress leader Jairam Ramesh.

His wife Sulochana, also a former IISc scientist and an authority on the Indian monsoon system, passed away in July 2025. Six months later Madhav joins her.

# In people's man Gadgil, the W Ghats found a valiant defender

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Madhav Gadgil, the ecologist who lived the life of science at grassroots even as he chaired national-level organisations and enjoyed international honours, was known in Karnataka for his work to protect the Western Ghats.

Though he headed Indian Institute of Science and was a member of eminent bodies like British Ecological Society, US National Academy of Sciences and the Prime Minister's Scientific Advisory Council, it was Gadgil's work on the Western Ghats that kept him as part of a never-ending news cycle in peninsular India.

His documentation brought recognition to the Nilgiris with the creation of the first biosphere reserve of India in 1986. Gadgil was part of efforts to save the Western Ghats much before he became the chair of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), with a march that began in January 1988 to save the Ghats. The march brought together like-minded people whose pressure eventually led to the formation of WGEEP, which Gadgil came to lead.

Retired forest officer A N Yellappa Reddy remembered, "Very early on, he was very clear about the need to protect biodiversity. He would take time to convince everyone about the need for a biodiversity register and the need to involve communities. We did have our differences when his recommendations seemed theoretical. However, the thing with Gadgil was that he always found a way to make things work."

Harini Nagendra, professor at Azim Premji University for whom Gadgil was a PhD advisor, described him as a man with exceptional communication skills. "Be it a farmer or a bureaucrat, a pastoralist or a scientist, he climbed the barriers and disarmed their suspicions," she said.

Writer and environmentalist Nagesh Hegde said, "Up to 1995, he worked with villagers on biodiversity and ecology. He had a field station in Sirsi and lived like just other villagers. His work was instrumental in preventing the construction of a big dam for Bedti river. He also recognised the importance of Aghanashini estuary early on."

Madhav Gadgil

### 'Disinformation campaign' on conservation

In his autobiography, the ecologist explained how a disinformation campaign by vested interests not only defeated the purpose of WGEEP report, but also violated the constitutional rights of people by undermining gram sabhas.

The Centre and the state governments refused to act on WGEEP's "clear-cut" recommendation to distribute regional-language versions of the report at local level and hold extensive consultation with gram panchayats prior to deciding on the report.

On the other hand, the state bureaucracy and political leadership pushed "projects favouring constructional and commercial lobbies".

Instead, a "disinformation campaign" made people believe that conservation measures will impose restrictions. "Since the report was not available in public, it was easy to mislead people," Gadgil stated. The final blow to the WGEEP report was delivered by the K Kasturirangan-led high-level working group (HLWG).

# Karnataka to move SC against rural job law

MGNREGA, from Page 1

"This will make those workers go to the national highway etc where they have to work under contractors. This is an Act that helps contractors, not one that seeks to protect workers' interest," he said.

He explained that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would soon take a call on consulting other Opposition states on this matter.

According to the Cabinet resolution, the VB — G RAM (G) Act is in "violation" of Right to Work and livelihood guaranteed by Article 21.

"The Act tramples upon the legitimate rights of panchayats as vested by the Constitution and is against the spirit of 73rd and 74th Amendment to the Constitution. The bottom-up planning approach, as per local requirements has been compromised," the resolution said.

The resolution termed the Act a "serious aberration" of social and economic rights of rural people, arguing that from now, works will only be available in areas notified by the Union government, while the wage rate is also fixed by the Union government without any guarantee to minimum wages.

The resolution added that the Act "defeats" the spirit of 'Gram Swaraj' as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi.

# EMI-income imbalance pushes...

Loans, from Page 1

Buy now, pay later (BNPL), instant loan apps and personal loan EMIs are a significant source of loan distress.

The report was based on a survey of 10,000 financially distressed borrowers, conducted from June to December 2025 across the country, including in Bengaluru and Tier-2 cities and semi-urban areas.

While banks (45%) and non-banking financial companies (40%) remain major lending sources, digital lending apps account for 15%.

Despite repeated advisories and regulatory action by the Reserve Bank of India, many borrowers continue to fall into illegal lending traps because urgency often overrides caution. Medical emergencies, job losses, or short-term cash-flow gaps push people toward apps promising instant, paperless loans and "no credit checks", especially when banks or NBFCs turn them away, law firm Accord Juris Managing Partner Alay Razvi said.

He said BNPL products worsen the problem by breaking spending into small instalments, making debt appear manageable while quietly piling up until repayments become unworkable. Once trapped, borrowers often face harassment, data misuse and intimidation practices that are illegal, Razvi added. In July last year, the RBI listed legal digital lending apps on its website. But still, some borrowers turn to illegal loan apps.

"This is not due to lack of awareness, but because of urgency and access gaps. When individuals face immediate cash needs and are unable to qualify for formal credit due to thin credit histories or documentation constraints, illegal apps present themselves as fast, frictionless solutions. These platforms exploit moments of financial stress by offering instant approvals and minimal checks, often masking the long-term consequences until it is too late. Awareness alone does not always translate into safer choices when speed and convenience outweigh caution," Vartis Platforms and Insta Money Co-Founder & CEO Bhavin Patel said.

Consumers must be encouraged to verify whether a lender is RBI-regulated, understand the true cost of borrowing, and avoid platforms that demand unnecessary permissions or access to personal contacts, Kiwi Co-founder Siddharth Mehta said.

According to him, when safe credit is readily available at the point of payment, reliance on unregulated and exploitative lending apps reduces significantly.

Alay Razvi also said that affected individuals should promptly report such apps to cybercrime authorities, lodge police complaints where threats are involved, and approach RBI grievance mechanisms for regulated lenders. There should be stronger action against illegal apps, tighter oversight of digital lending partners, mandatory credit bureau checks for BNPL, and behaviour-focused financial literacy are essential.

# HC upholds woman's autonomy for abortion due to marital discord

Delhi HC, from Page 1

"If a woman does not want to continue with the pregnancy, then forcing her to do so represents a violation of the woman's bodily integrity and aggravates her mental trauma, which would be deleterious to her mental health," the January 6 verdict said.

The court held that when the Supreme Court court, in its judgments, has recognised the autonomy of a woman to seek abortion in the situation of a marital discord which can impact her mental health, and also the provision of Section 3 MTPA and the Rules framed therein, it cannot be said that an offence under Section 312 IPC was committed by the petitioner.

The court further observed that MTP Rule 3-B(c) made a woman eligible for medical termination of pregnancy if there was a change in the marital status, like widowhood and divorce, and the benefit granted by this rule must be understood as extending to all women who undergo a "change of material circumstances".

The petitioner challenged a sessions court order which upheld her summoning before a magisterial court for the offence under Section 312 IPC.

She contended that her reproductive autonomy guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution had been criminalised and her lawful exercise of fundamental right to privacy, bodily integrity and decisional liberty was overlooked.

The husband argued that since the couple was living together on the date of abortion, they had no marital discord and hence, provisions of the MTPA would not be applicable.

The court, however, rejected this contention and said marital discord could not be "overstretched" to mean that it exists only after the parties have separated and gone into litigation. In this case, the reason given by the wife in her OPD card showed that she already felt the stress of marriage and had made a decision to separate from her husband.

"It is only a woman who suffers. Such a pregnancy brings with it insurmountable difficulties, leading to grave mental trauma... There are social, financial, and other aspects immediately attached to the pregnancy of a woman, and if the pregnancy is unwarranted, it can have serious repercussions. It undoubtedly affects mental health," the judge stated.

# Not directed removal of every dog from streets: Apex court

## Says directive was to treat canines according to Animal Birth Control rules

**ASHISH TRIPATHI**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday clarified that it has not directed the removal of every dog from the streets, and its directive was to treat these stray canines according to the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules.

Taking up a suo motu matter related to the stray dogs, including the ones filed by dog lovers seeking modification of its earlier orders, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria observed that a dog can smell people who are either afraid of them or have suffered a dog bite, and they attack such persons.

During the hearing, the court was told that in places like Delhi, there is a rodent menace, and it also has a unique problem of monkeys. It was submitted that the abrupt removal of canines would lead to an increase in the rodent population. "When the rodent population goes up, we have seen very disastrous consequences," a counsel said.

To this, the bench said, "In a lighter vein, dogs and cats are enemies. Cats kill rodents. So we should promote more cats."

The counsel said let these dogs also be regulated in a manner that has proved to be the only efficacious manner, which is sterilisation, vaccination and re-release in the territory.

On this, the bench said, "Tell us how many dogs each hospital should have roaming around in the corridors, in wards, near patient beds."

The counsel said the court's intention in the matter was unquestionable, and it had noted how the ABC Rules and orders passed by the courts were not implemented. When one of the advocates referred to the lack of infrastructure, including that of dog shelters, the bench said, "We are all conscious of that."

"Please tell us, is this micro-chipping, which is mandatory for pet dogs, really happening?" the bench asked.

One of the lawyers said, "In this country, it is not happening, but can it happen, should it happen? In my respectful submission, the answer is yes."

Another counsel referred to the stray dog menace in residential complexes and said public ways have to be kept safe.

When one of the lawyers argued that one did not know if the dog would like him or not, the court observed, "A dog can always smell a human who is afraid of dogs and who has suffered a dog bite, and he will always attack."

It referred to a report published in an English daily on December 29, 2025, titled, "On the roof of the world, feral dogs hunt down Ladakh's rare species". It said the lawyers should go through the report and come prepared on Friday.

Senior advocate Gaurav Agarwal said that four states had filed their compliance affidavits on Wednesday.

### Canine crisis

- A counsel said Delhi has rodent, monkey problem, which will rise if dogs removed
- Argues for 'sterilisation, vaccination and re-release in the territory' model
- Court asks about number of dogs roaming in hospital corridors
- Refers to a report about dogs hunting rare species in Ladakh
- Asks about micro-chipping of canines

## Now, Bihar schoolteachers asked to count dogs

**ABHAY KUMAR**
PATNA

Even as the Supreme Court is grappling with the contentious issue of stray dogs, a municipal corporation in Bihar has issued an order asking government teachers to count the number of stray dogs in their area.

The order has been issued in Rohtas district's Sasaram.

In a state where education is in a shambles and teachers already overburdened with non-academic roles like booth-level officers (BLOs) or census-workers, the additional responsibility of counting stray dogs appears to be an absurd addition to their responsibilities.

The move has not gone down well with the teaching fraternity.

"We are already bogged down with non-academic duties. If we are appointed for teaching, we should be primarily allowed to teach," said a teacher on condition of anonymity.

The Sasaram Municipal Corporation has issued the diktat directing all schools within its municipal limits to appoint a nodal officer from amongst the teachers to gather and share information about stray dogs.

Even as the move drew sharp flak across the state, Sasaram Municipal Commissioner Vikas Kumar said the directive was issued as per the government's guidelines.

The move comes at a time when the Supreme Court is also hearing cases on stray dogs.

## Maha civic polls: 12 suspended Cong councillors join BJP

**MRITYUNJAY BOSE**
MUMBAI, DHNS

Amid jet-speed political developments in Ambernath suburb of Mumbai, 12 newly elected Congress party's municipal councillors, who were suspended for allying with BJP, joined the saffron party on Thursday.

Thus, the Congress has been completely wiped out from the Ambernath Municipal Council (AMC) with the 100% defection to the BJP.

On the other hand, the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee, which has been left red-faced, is contemplating legal action against the switchovers.

Ambernath, located in the Thane district, is an important suburb, and the BJP has managed to end the 35-year rule of the Shiv Sena.

This has come as a major jolt to Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his son and Kalyan MP Dr Shrikant Shinde, who have a big say in Thane district politics.

At a function in Navi Mumbai, the 12 municipal councillors joined the BJP in the presence of state president Ravindra Chavan and minister Ganesh Naik.

The development took place hours after Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis ruled out any alliance of the BJP with Congress in Ambarnath and the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM in Akot.

In the December 2025 municipal council and town panchayat polls, the Shiv Sena emerged as the single largest party with 27 seats in the 59-member AMC, followed by the BJP with 14, Congress with 12, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP with four, and two independents.

## YouTuber held for circulating child sexual abuse content

**HYDERABAD, DHNS:** Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police arrested Kambeti Satya Murthy, a YouTuber from Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam for creating, uploading, and circulating child sexual abuse material on social media.

Murthy ran the YouTube channel "Viral Hub" (@ViralHub007) and Instagram account "Viralhub_007," where he posted objectionable videos featuring interviews with minors aged 15-17. In these clips, he posed obscene, sexually explicit, and vulgar questions.

One video showed him inducing two minors to kiss, amounting to sexual exploitation.

Operating since 2018, Murthy initially interviewed social media influencers using crude language to boost views and revenue. To increase monetisation, he targeted minors, uploading videos with indecent behavior and explicit language that violated child protection and cyber laws.

In October last year, Cyber Crime Police registered a suo motu case after spotting the abusive content.

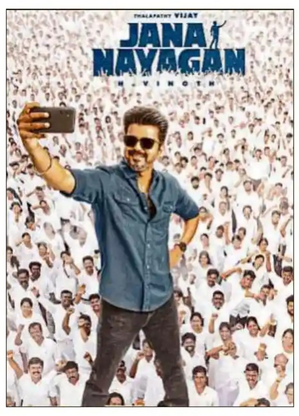
Technical analysis confirmed violations of relevant laws. Digital evidence led investigators to identify, trace, and arrest Murthy.

Police noted the content's gross breach of protections for children under 18, with cases filed accordingly.

# 'Jana Nayagan' delay: Cong, film fraternity rally behind Vijay

## Cong says people will not tolerate cinema censorship for political gains

**E T B SIVAPRIYAN**
CHENNAI, DHNS




Coming out in support of actor-turned-politician Vijay, the Congress on Thursday laid the blame for *Jana Nayagan* not getting a censor clearance on the BJP-led Union government, saying the people of Tamil Nadu would not tolerate the "censorship of cinemas" for political gains, nor bow down to the "politics of intimidation".

As the Bengaluru-based KVN Productions postponed the movie release from January 9, the Tamil film industry rallied behind Vijay.

Though the Film Producers Council said this was a "routine development" as many movies face issues from Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), actors and directors asked Vijay to stay strong, and that movie would be blockbuster.

Unsurprisingly, the Congress supporting the actor by directly accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of exerting pressure on the CBFC to block the film's censor certificate was significant given the intense speculation about the saffron party warming up to Vijay.

Congress leaders told *DH* that the party's support to Vijay should be viewed only through the prism of "artistic freedom" and not through any political angle. They said while Vijay was anti-DMK, one should remember that he was anti-BJP as well, and that it was imperative for all secular forces to support him.

"While political disagreements are understandable, targeting an artist's work is unacceptable," said AICC incharge of Tamil Nadu Girish Chodankar. He also asked Modi to take on politician Vijay, not actor Vijay.

Meanwhile, the DMK also said it did not see the Congress' statement as one in support of Vijay but against the BJP.

The Congress' move also comes close on the heels of its leaders seeking a power-sharing deal with the DMK after the 2026 Assembly elections.

This is not the first time that Vijay's movies have faced trouble. In 2013, his movie *Thalaivaa* was not released in Tamil Nadu, while dialogues critical of the GST in the 2017 movie *Mersal* stoked a major controversy.

The next year, *Sarkar* faced intense opposition from the AIADMK due to scenes critical of welfare measures, and because the name of a character was identical to J Jayalalithaa's original name.

### Fraternity responds

Popular director Venkat Prabhu said no matter what, Jana Nayagan was going to be the biggest farewell in Indian cinema, while actor Ravi Mohan said he stood with Vijay.

Director Karthik Subburaj said the strict timeline rules for censors were really hard to follow, and put a lot of pressure on the creative space of filmmakers, especially when the release date of a big-budget movie is announced.

## Over 52% anganwadi kids took home ration using facial recognition

**AMRITA MADHUKALYA**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Months after the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development introduced a face-recognition system for take-home ration for pregnant and lactating women as well as anganwadi children, the ministry said that as of December 2025, as many as 52.68% or 2.79 crore anganwadi children have availed the benefits of the scheme.

Ministry sources stated that out of 4.73 crore beneficiaries among children, 91.38% or 4.51 crore have completed paperwork, and a little over half of the beneficiaries have received their benefits.

In anganwadis, the ministry stated that the system is used to verify beneficiaries based on their Aadhaar biometric details and is integrated with the app used for Poshan Tracker.

"FRS-based verification, which uses facial recognition technology to confirm a person's identity by comparing live facial features with stored templates, offers significant benefits. It provides enhanced security by leveraging the uniqueness of facial traits, making it difficult to forge or bypass," the ministry said.

FRS was introduced in the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), the ministry's flagship maternity benefits scheme, from May 21 last year for all new enrollments. Since then, 17.82 lakh women have enrolled on the system. In all, the scheme has 4.26 crore beneficiaries who received Rs 20,060 crore.

Meanwhile, the WCD ministry on Thursday released a portal to bring under one platform NGOs, NRIs and individuals for their CSR as well as other developmental contributions under various fields for women and children.

The ministry said the 'Pankhudi portal' will improve the infrastructure and services provided across the country's 14 lakh aanganwadi centres, 5,000 childcare institutions, 800 one-stop centres and other such institutional delivery network.

### SNOW MUCH FUN

Houses set against the backdrop of snow-covered mountains, in Shimla, on Thursday. PTI

## Shah holds high-level security review meeting on J&K

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** In a bid to achieve the goal of "terror-free Jammu and Kashmir" at the earliest, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the counter terrorism operations targeting terrorist infrastructure and terror financing in a mission mode should be continued.

Amit Shah

His remarks came at a meeting he chaired here to review the security situation in J&K, in which Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Kumar Deka, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and other senior officers were present.

"All security agencies should remain alert and continue to work in synergy to ensure that the gains achieved after abrogation of Article 370 are sustained and we achieve the goal of 'terror-free Jammu and Kashmir' at the earliest," he said while assuring that all the resources will be made available in this endeavour.

He appreciated the efforts of the security agencies for strengthening the security scenario of J&K and said counter-terror operations targeting terrorist infrastructure and terror financing in a mission mode should be continued.

## Illegal migrant from B'desh held in Dehradun

**DEHRADUN, PTI:** An allegedly illegal Bangladeshi woman living here in the Patel Nagar area was arrested by the police on Thursday.

Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ajay Singh said that during the Covid-19, Subeda Begum, 40, illegally crossed into West Bengal and married an Indian citizen.

He said that on a tip-off from an informer, the police detained Begum, who was living in Lok Sanskriti Colony in the Patel Nagar area.

During questioning, she confessed that she is a Bangladeshi citizen and had been living under the fake identities of Subeda Bibi, Moni, and Priya Roy.

# 'No norm change after admissions begin'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said that just as modification of recruitment norms is forbidden after the process has begun, it is illegal for an admission process to not be fully defined in all its contours before its commencement to leave room for authorities to stipulate norms later on to suit their own interests or permit nepotism.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Alok Aradhe emphasised that the transparency of such a process is paramount to ensure fairness and prevent arbitrariness.

The court held that the principle—rules of the game cannot be altered once the game has begun—applies to admission processes to educational courses as it would to recruitment processes.

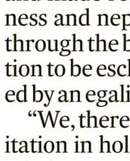
"This principle would apply with equal vigour to an admission process relating to sought-after courses like MBBS/BDS," the bench held.

The court castigated the Punjab government for effecting a change in sports quota policy midstream for admission to MBBS/BDS courses under NEET UG-2024.

Quashing the policy decision taken to allow candidates to furnish certificates of their sports achievements for any class and year instead of Classes 11 and 12, the bench said the lack of transparency at the outset invariably enabled and made room for arbitrariness and nepotism to walk in through the back door, a situation to be eschewed and avoided by an egalitarian state.

"We, therefore, have no hesitation in holding that the admission process to MBBS/BDS courses during session-2024, by altering the zone of consideration for sports quota at the behest of Ramesh Kumar Kashyap, a coach, whose motives remained undisclosed, cannot be sustained even if the State of Punjab acted upon his recommendation bonafide and in ignorance of his subterfuge," the bench said in its judgment on January 6.

**SUPREME COURT**



"This principle (that rules of the game cannot be altered once the game has begun) would apply with equal vigour to an admission process relating to sought-after courses like MBBS/BDS

The court found the very foundation for such modification stood vitiated, as Kashyap failed to disclose that his recommendation benefited his own daughter, Kudrat Kashyap, who secured first rank after the policy change. It when a policy decision is riddled with arbitrariness or even provides avenues for it, the court would be justified in nullifying it.

## BJP insists on power-sharing deal with AIADMK

**CHENNAI, DHNS:** Touching a raw nerve in their ties, the BJP is insisting on a power-sharing arrangement with the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu as part of the alliance deal for the 2026 assembly polls, a demand that has made the Dravidian party uncomfortable.

The demand for the BJP to be included in the government if the NDA were to win the April-May polls was reiterated by Home Minister Amit Shah to AIADMK leaders twice in the past three days.

"The demand for a share in power and BJP ministers in the government has been made by Shah to AIADMK leaders during his discussions on Monday and Wednesday. From day one, the BJP has been clear that the NDA should form a government, not AIADMK alone. We have made the demand, and we are waiting for a response," a source aware of the developments told *DH*.

During the meeting with EPS on Wednesday, Shah is believed to have sought a "greater share of assembly seats" for the BJP.

However, AIADMK believes agreeing to share power and announcing it before the elections would give ammunition to the DMK which is already going to the town saying the BJP will rule the state through AIADMK if the NDA were to win the elections.

**ASTRO-TOURISM**

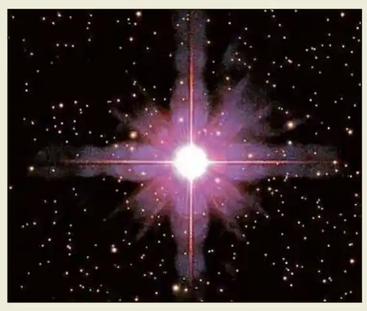
## Stargazing lights up new future for Kaziranga

**SUMIR KARMAKAR**
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) — the largest home to one-horned rhinos, beside other animals and birds — is trying to introduce astro-tourism to add to its list of attractions.

KNPTR Director Sonali Ghosh told *DH* on Thursday that the plan was to procure the equipment and train local youths for the introduction of astro-tourism as a sustainable, low-impact tourism model.

"Astro-tourism has gained popularity in countries like Chile, New Zealand, Namibia, and even in India's Andaman islands," she noted.



As part of the move, the park organised a two-day event named Cosmic Kaziranga on January 5-6 at Rhinoland Park in Burrapahar.

This initiative marked a significant step toward developing stargazing, astro-photography, and astro-tourism, Ghosh said.

### 'Natural assets'

"Drawing inspiration from successful models in Chile, New Zealand, Namibia, and the Andaman Islands—where dark skies are valued as natural assets, Cosmic Kaziranga positions the park for day-and-night tourism: jungle safaris and nature interpretation by day, guided stargazing by night. This extends stays, reduces pressure on core areas, and promotes longer, meaningful engagements," explained Ghosh.

Young participants, conservation professionals, frontline women forest personnel, and astronomy experts attended the event to explore how night-sky experiences can complement wildlife tourism, advance conservation, and boost local livelihoods.

Experts stressed on controlling light and sound pollution around protected areas, as artificial lighting disrupts wildlife and obscures the night sky.

Responsible astro-tourism thus supports biodiversity conservation and environmental awareness, generating local jobs while reconnecting people to the cosmos, they said.

## BJP's Kuki MLAs under pressure to not support Manipur govt formation

**SUMIR KARMAKAR**
GUWAHATI, DHNS

BJP's move to form a "popular government" in Manipur has hit a roadblock, with Kuki organisations, including the insurgent groups, asking the seven BJP MLAs representing the Kuki-Zo communities not to support or facilitate the government formation in the conflict-torn state.

The Kuki Zo Council and Kuki Inpi Manipur, the apex body of influential community-based organisations, has warned that no individual or legislator would facilitate or support a move taken by the Meitei legislators and the BJP, as the Kukis have been demanding a "separate administration" to end the ongoing Meitei-Kuki conflict.

The United People's Front (UPF) and the Kuki National Organisation (KNO), two forums of Kuki insurgent groups currently under the Suspension of Operations agreement with the government, have convened a meeting of all civil society organisations and the MLAs on January 13 to discuss issues "pertinent to our people and our political demand".

Like the civil society organisations, the UPF and KNO are against extending support to the government and have been demanding a "separate administration" in the form of a Union Territory comprising Kuki-dominated districts for ending the Meitei-Kuki conflict.

# NHRC seeks report on typhoid outbreak from Guj govt

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Days after a typhoid outbreak in Gandhinagar due to consumption of contaminated water, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) took suo motu cognisance of the case on Thursday and sought a report from the state government within two weeks.

Quoting a media report, the NHRC stated, "Reportedly, the surge in the patients of typhoid has exposed serious flaws in the newly laid water supply system in Gandhinagar. Seven points of leaks have been identified in the water pipeline network, causing sewage to mix with the drinking water supply."

Issuing notice to the state chief secretary, the commission has sought a detailed report on the matter within two weeks.

"The commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issues of violation of the human rights of the victims. Therefore, it has issued a notice to the chief secretary, government of Gujarat, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks," the notice stated.

It has instructed the authority to include in the report "the present health status of the outdoor and indoor patients of typhoid and the steps taken or proposed to ensure such incidents do not recur."

The notice mentions a 30-bed pediatric ward opened in the Gandhinagar Civil Hospital to handle the increasing number of typhoid patients, mostly children. They were admitted to the hospital with high fever and gastrointestinal symptoms.

Health officials had stated earlier that most of the patients were aged between 1 and 16 years.

They said that the reason behind the epidemic was water contamination caused by pipeline leakages in Gandhinagar's Sector 24, 28, and Adivada areas.

The state government had said that following the outbreak, survey teams of the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation covered 20,800 households, and distributed 30,000 chlorine tablets and 20,600 ORS packets.

# Indore water deaths: Cong seeks SC-level probe

**Accuses the BJP govt of hiding details about loss of lives**

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Students being assisted to make way through the debris amid pipeline and drainage work in Indore's Bhagirathpura area on Thursday. PTI

Congress on Thursday accused the ruling BJP at the centre and Madhya Pradesh of "hiding" details of loss of lives due to contaminated water in Indore and sought a Supreme Court-level probe while asking whether cholera bacteria were detected in water samples tested.

Party's Media and Publicity Department Chairperson Pawan Khera urged the state government to publicise its communication with the centre on the conduct of water sample testing and its result and the actions taken on it.

He also alleged that the state government had taken loans of $200 million in 2003 and $71 million in 2008 for urban water supply and environment improvement projects but it has not started despite choosing the winning bidder. He asked the Prime Minister's Office to order a probe into the delay besides a Supreme Court-level probe to make the ruling BJP accountable.

"We want answers from the government. Were water samples and stool culture tests of affected citizens conducted in Indore? If tests were conducted, was the cholera bacterium found or not? What is the government hiding? The public has a right to know. We demand answers in writing," he told a press conference.

"If vibrio cholerae was confirmed, were these cases duly notified under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)? Cholera is a notifiable disease in India. Did the state government inform the union government about cholera cases and deaths? Whether the World Health Organisation was informed? Much is being hidden," he said.

Citing 'Swachh Bharat' and 'Har Ghar Jal Yojana', he claimed that the Indore incident "exposed the hollowness" of the government's slogans and schemes.

"Prime Minister Modi has used these slogans in every election. This is the condition of Indore's piped water supply. The direct responsibility lies with those who give fancy slogans, play spectators, keep us busy, and create divisions. The Prime Minister bears direct responsibility," he said.

Claiming that this is "not an isolated incident", he said at least 23 children died after consuming contaminated cough syrup months ago while children have lost their lives due to rats in government hospitals.

He said the people of Madhya Pradesh deserve justice, accountability, and immediate remedial action and the time has come for the BJP to "answer for its decades of failure and for the lives lost due to its gross negligence".

# 'Exemptions given to linguistic minorities in Malayalam bill'

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Amid the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority (KBADA) raising concerns over the Kerala government's Malayalam Language Bill, 2025, Kerala government sources said adequate exemptions had been given in the Bill for linguistic minorities.

The Malayalam Language (Dissemination and Enrichment) Bill passed by the Kerala Assembly in 2015 was returned by the President last year. The needle was pointed towards concerns raised by linguistic minorities, but no specific reason was officially stated.

For that reason, the fresh Bill passed by the Assembly in October 2025 has provisions giving exemptions to linguistic minorities.

As per Section 7 of the Bill, exemptions have been given to Kannada and Tamil linguistic minorities in communications with the state government offices.

Students whose mother tongue is not Malayalam are also given exemption from learning Malayalam. Such students in Stnadards 9 and above are also exempted from writing examinations in Malayalam.

Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority Director A G Oleena said it was quite reasonable for a state to insist that candidates seeking jobs in state services learn the state's language.

"Reasonable exemptions have been given to linguistic minorities in the new Bill. Hence, the reason for concerns is still not clear," she said.

## Key concerns

Meanwhile, forums of Kannadigas in Kasaragod hailed the Kerala government for addressing their key concerns regarding the absence of Kannada teachers in schools in the area and the lack of Kannada-knowing officials in local government offices.

"Now, officials who know Kannada are being appointed as clerks in offices in Kasaragod, and Kannada teachers are being posted in government schools. These are welcome moves by the Kerala government," said Umesh M Salian, a member of the Kasaragod linguistic minority committee and secretary of the Rashtrakavi Manjeshwar Govinda Pai Smaraka Samithi.

# BJP worried of SIR deletions, will add fake voters: Akhilesh

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

As the BJP state leadership went into a huddle to discuss the possible impact of the SIR in Uttar Pradesh, which saw removal of 2.89 crore voters from the draft electoral roll, Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday said that the saffron party was "worried over the large scale deletions" and could try to get fake voters enrolled in the list.

Akhilesh Yadav

"BJP is worried over the deletions during the SIR... it will now try to get fake voters enrolled in the list," Akhilesh told reporters here.

He also appealed to every voter and 'PDA Prahari' to remain vigilant and ensure that no conspiracy to delete the votes of the PDA community succeeds. He coined the acronym PDA in June 2023, which stands for 'Pichhde' (backward classes), Dalits and 'Alpsankhyak' (minorities).

In a post on X, he said that despite the efforts of 'PDA Praharis', crores of votes of the PDA community had already been deleted.

The SP president said that the large-scale deletions also showed that bogus votes had been cast in the polls.

He also referred to CM Yogi Adityanath's reported remarks that the names of 4 crore BJP voters were struck off the rolls and that they (BJP) needed to get their voters enrolled. "From where did he (CM) get this information? Election Commission, obviously," he added.

Meanwhile, senior BJP leaders, including Adityanath and state president Pankaj Chaudhary, held a meeting with other leaders to discuss the draft electoral roll in the wake of deletions of 2.89 crore voters.

# Justice Varma case: SC enquires about powers of RS deputy chair

**Disagrees with Allahabad HC judge's challenge to panel probing him**

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked if the vice-president could exercise the functions of the President in the latter's absence, why could the Rajya Sabha deputy chairman not exercise the functions of the chairman in the latter's absence?

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma disagreed with the submission made on behalf of Allahabad High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, who is facing a House panel inquiry for misconduct, that the RS deputy chairman had no power to reject a motion and, under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, only the Lok Sabha Speaker and the RS Chairman had that power.

Justice Varma was repatriated from the Delhi HC to the Allahabad HC after burnt wads of currency notes were found at his official residence in New Delhi on March 14 last year.

The apex court bench, which reserved its verdict on his plea challenging the legality of the panel probing charges against him, asked the parties to submit their written submissions by Monday.

On behalf of Varma, senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Sidharth Luthra told the bench that Article 91 of the Constitution, which allows the RS deputy chairman to perform the chairman's duties in his absence, could not be a basis for the former to exercise the discretionary powers specifically vested in the latter according to the Judges (Inquiry) Act.

Luthra submitted that the matter could have waited until a new chairman was appointed. The then vice-president and RS Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar had resigned, after which Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh rejected the impeachment motion.

Rohatgi submitted that the Judges (Inquiry) Act did not authorise the deputy chairman to accept or reject the impeachment motion.

The bench said, "The Constitution does not work in a vacuum. If the vice-president can exercise the functions of the president in the absence of the president, can't the Rajya Sabha deputy chairman exercise the functions of the chairman in the latter's absence?"

The bench then asked Rohatgi why the RS deputy chairman could not accept or reject the impeachment motion in the absence of the chairman. It also pointed out that the definition clauses in the Judges (Inquiry) Act also used the expression "unless the context otherwise requires".

# Tiger skins, claws found in Guj temple

AHMEDABAD, DHNS

At least 37 tiger skins and 133 tiger claws were found inside a room in a famous temple in the Rajpipla town of Gujarat's Narmada district on Thursday.

The forest officials said trustees of the Dharmeshwar Mahadev Temple in Rajpipla informed them about the skins, which they said were found during repair work. They reportedly stumbled upon the stock in one of the rooms of the temple currently undergoing renovation.

"We have recovered 37 intact skins, four fragmented ones, and 133 claws. At this stage, we cannot definitively confirm whether they are genuine or counterfeit. Samples have been sent for forensic examination to determine their authenticity," Rajpipla range forest officer Jignesh Soni told *DH*.

Forest officials said the skins and claws were wrapped in newspapers dated from 1992 to 1993. The room where the skins were found belonged to a temple priest who passed away about five months ago.

A tiger skin recovered from the temple.

The priest, identified as Madhavanand, hailed from neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, from where lots of monks visited him and the temple.

Forest Department sources said that "some of the skins and claws may be counterfeit, but nothing for sure can be said at this moment".

# Govt to launch cashless care scheme for road accident victims

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will soon launch a cashless medical treatment scheme for victims of road accidents on highways.

Nitin Gadkari

As per the PM RAHAT (Road Accident Victims Hospitalisation and Assured Treatment) scheme, the road crash victims will be entitled to cashless treatment of up to Rs 1.5 lakh for a minimum of seven days.

"The pilot project of the scheme has recently concluded in Assam, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Puducherry and Uttar Pradesh. Once the Prime Minister inaugurates the scheme, we will roll it out nationally," Gadkari said.


**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**
CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521
No: SEE/Tr(Op)Z-N/EE(E)/AEE(E)-1/O-76/25-26/2613 Date: 08.01.2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites vide Tender No. **KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3096** for **"Providing Additional Earthing pits and other allied works for grounding of 11kV Feeders & 66kV CT's, PT's, LA's, Power Transformer NCT at 66/11kV Yellarbande MUSS, pertaining to Hebbal Operations Division, KPTCL,** coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission Operation North Circle, KPTCL, Bengaluru on **Total Turnkey, Two Part & Percentage Basis.** The Bid Documents will be available in KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 09.01.2026.** Any Additional information shall be obtained from the undersigned.

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec.,)**
**Transmission (Operations) Zone-North,**
**KPTCL, UAS Campus, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560024.**

**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.:SEE/Tr(P)C/KLB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2025-26/4478 Date:08.01.2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids from the eligible bidders for the following works.

**1) Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/TPC/KLB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-1/2025-26/110kV Sarsamba/Call-2 Dtd: 07.01.2026** for Conducting Preliminary and detailed survey of 110kV line pertaining to the work of Establishing 2x20MVA, 110/33kV sub-station at **Sarasamba** Village by constructing 110kV DC line on DC tower using panther conductor from existing 110kV **Rudrawadi** sub-station for a distance of about 21km in Aland Taluk, Kalaburagi District.

**2) Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/TPC/KLB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-1/2025-26/110kV Nandarga Dtd: 07.01.2026** for Conducting Preliminary and detailed survey for the work of constructing 110kV DC line on DC towers using Panther conductor from 220kV **Nimbarga** sub-station to 110kV **Karajagi** sub-station for a distance of 45kms for Establishing 2X20MVA,110/11kV sub-station at **Nandarga** in Afzalpur Taluk, Kalaburagi District.

The bids will be received through KPP portal only. The detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 09.01.2026.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.),**
**Transmission(Projects) Circle, KPTCL,**
**Prasarana Bhavan, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.**

**HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED**
(Wholly Owned by Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Zonal Office, Shivaganga Layout, Keshwapur,
Vijayapura Road, Hubballi–580023.
Cell: +91 9448277608. E-mail: ceehbl.hescom@gmail.com
CIN No: U31401KA2002SGCO30437
No. HESCOM/CEE/HBL/AEE-3/F-20/2025-26/4024-25 Date: 02-01-2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

(Through KPPP Portal Only)

Chief Engineer (Electy.), O and M Zone, HESCOM, Hubballi has invited Tender for Replacement of existing Hazardous overhead LT line by 1.1kV, 3 phase 5 wire power line on 9 Mtr supports using 3x95+1x16+1x70 Sqmm Arieal Bunched Cable (ABC) at various places in Gopanakoppa section, CSD-1, Hubballi on Total turnkey and lumpsum Basis in Two cover system. The details of work tender indent: **HESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 971.**

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging on to the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for further information, please contact telephone 9480883813/9448370227 during office hours.

**Chief Engineer (Electy.),**
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/ದಿಶಾ/1078/2025–26 **O & M Zonal Office, HESCOM, Hubballi.**

**ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ**
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ.,
ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 4, ನವಲಗುಂದ–582208
Phone No:08380-229248 Fax No:08380-229017
E-mail : knnl.mrbcc4@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕನೀನಿನಿ:ಮಬದ–4:ಪಿ.ಬಿ:ಎಇ–2:4701/2025–26/1083 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.01.2026

**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ–2ನೇ ಕರೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟರ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)**

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ:4, ನವಲಗುಂದ ರವರು ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ **4701** ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ:4, ನವಲಗುಂದ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ (KNNL/2025-26/SE0210/CALL-2) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. **450.00** ಲಕ್ಷ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. **571000**/– ಟೆಂಡರ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **26.01.2026** ರಂದು 5.30 p.m ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : **28.01.2026** ರಂದು 11:00 a.m ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ:4, ನವಲಗುಂದ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರ ಮೊ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **9663137692** ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಯಾವದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ, ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ, ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರು,
ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ., ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 4,
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/1081/2025–26 ನವಲಗುಂದ

**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-393(3)/25-26/4570-74 Date: 08.01.2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Cir-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/JE-1/25-26/EPR-10 CALL-4** Dated: 25.06.2025 for **"Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of Copper Control cable of the various sizes, required at various sub-stations in Tr (Op) Circle-South KPTCL Bengaluru conforming to Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading"**

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **09.01.2026.**

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.,)**
**Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL,**
**Office Complex, Anand Rao Circle, Bengaluru-560009.**

**ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್**
**KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK**
ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯದ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ಡ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Scheduled Bank Owned by Government
H. O. : # 32, Sanganakal Road, Gandhi Nagar, BALLARI.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice is hereby issued to all the customers of erstwhile Bank now Karnataka Grameena Bank**

The Government of India vide Notification No. 1064, F No.7/6/2024/(5)-RRB Dated 05.04.2025 has notified the amalgamation of Karnataka Gramin Bank and Karnataka VikasGrameena Bank in the state of Karnataka with its new name as **"Karnataka Grameena Bank"** under the sponsorship of Canara Bankw.e.f 01.05.2025with its Head Office at Ballari.

As per the Reserve Bank of India directive the validity of cheque books with **old MICR codes is valid up to 31.01.2026**. Accordingly, customers were informed through Public Notice. We once again request all the customers to **exchange** their old cheque books for new ones with updated Bank name, MICR and IFSC codes within due date.

**: IMPORTANT :**

- New cheque books shall bear new Bank **IFSC codes (PKGBXXXXXXX)** and **MICR codes (XXX697XXX).**
- Cheque books issued with old **MICR codes** and Bank name of erstwhile Banks **will not be valid after January 2026.**

Please visit your home branch to obtain the updated cheque books and avoid any inconvenience. **The bank will not be responsible for any claims arising from cheque rejections after 31.01.2026.**

Date : 08-1-2026 **Assuring you of our best services always** Sd/- General Manager,
Place : Ballari Karnataka Grameena Bank

**Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited**
**(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)**
#6/13/1, 10th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi,
Bengaluru - 560072. Ph-080-22282220,
E-mail:kredlmd@gmail.com, www.kredl.karnataka.gov.in
No. KREDL/CIVIL/172/2025-26 Date: 07.01.2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)**

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), invites bids from contractors/Vendors/Company/Firms for the following work. **Providing Comprehensive and Non-Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance Services for Integrated Building Systems at KREDL Corporate Office, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru.** Estimated Cost put to Tender: **Rs. 55.00 Lakhs.** For further details, interested applicants may access Bid Documents from e-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 09.01.2026.** Last date for submission of bids is on **09.02.2026.**

**Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Accounts), KREDL**

**Government of Karnataka**
**The Office the Deputy Director Mines And Geology-Bagalkote-587103 Phone Number: 08354-297534**
No: DMG/BGK/DMFT(cell)/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:08–01–2026

**Publication of Re e-Auction**

A District Mineral Foundation Cell will be established at the Office of the Deputy Director, Mines and Geology Department, Bagalkot. A total of (04) human services (outsourcing) including Civil Engineer-01, Computer Operator-01, 'D' Grade Employees-01 and Vehicle Driver-01 are required to perform duties in the said cell on an outsourced basis. Tenders are invited through e-procurement to appoint a qualified registered agency to provide the said human services and pay the salary. More information/details can be downloaded from the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in, RefNo: DMG/2025-26/SE0195/CALL-2 the last date for downloading the annexure and submitting the application is: 16-01-2026 at 5-00 PM. The tender in e-procurement has been started on: 07-01-2026. Applications must be submitted through the e-procurement platform.

For more information about the said e-auction, contact the Deputy Director's Office, Department of Mines and Geology, Bagalkot Office at telephone number: 08354-297534 and e-mail: dmgbagalkot@gmail.com.

**Sd/-The Organizers Are DMFT**
**Deputy Director**
**Mines And Geology-Bagalkote**

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-497/KSMCA/2025-26

Karnataka's Sruti Arvind (left) in action against Delhi.

## Karnataka beat Delhi to enter quarters

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** After enduring one loss and two wins, Karnataka women posted an 88-52 win over Delhi in their final Group A game to secure a spot in the quarterfinal of the 75th Senior Nationals Basketball Championship at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai on Thursday.

Sruti Aravind turned out to be the star for Karnataka with her 26-point effort while her team-mates Bhandhavya M and Nidhi Umesh chipped in with 13 and 12 points respectively.

The Sanjana Ramesh-led team will now face Madhya Pradesh for a place in the semifinal.

The Karnataka men, meanwhile, lost their final group match to Tami Nadu 71-63 but they had already sealed their last-eight spot following two three straight wins. In the quarterfinal, Karnataka men will be up against Delhi.

**Results: Women (Group A):** Karnataka: 88 (Sruti Aravind 26, Bhandhavya M 13, Nidhi Umesh 12) bt Delhi: 52 (Suman 12, Neha Hooda 11).

## Poonam stuns Sakshi; Nikhat, Lovlina in semis

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Former Youth World Championships gold medallist Poonam Poonia produced a fearless display to hand defending 54kg champion Sakshi Chaudhary a shock defeat, causing the first major upset of the National Boxing Championships here on Thursday.

The 23-year-old Railways boxer, also an U22 Asian champion, controlled proceedings with smart footwork and sustained aggression, moving fluently around the ring to clinch a 4-1 split decision and book her place in the semifinals.

For Nikhat Zareen (51kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), it was business as usual as the top stars marched into the semifinals with ease.

Nikhat registered a unanimous decision win against Lanchenbee Chanu of Manipur, while Lovlina sealed her last-four spot with a first-round referee stops contest victory over Mounika Kalyanam Bonthu of AP.

Reigning world champion Minakshi Hooda (48kg), Nitu Ghanghas (51kg) and Preeti Pawar (54kg) also progressed comfortably to the semifinals.

Lovlina Borgohain

## Whirlwind for main event

**KOLKATA RESULTS**

Vijay Singh-trained Whirlwind, to be ridden by M S Deora, appeals most in a small field of four runners for the Kamilah Handicap, the feature event of the races to be run over a mile and quarter on Friday.

First race starts at 1.00 pm.

**1. Agostine Handicap - 1100M**: Memphis 1, Phenomenal Lady 2, Elusive Ranger 3.
**2. Acrider Handicap - 1600M**: Divine Gift 1, Carnation 2, Righteous 3.
**3. Kamilah Handicap - 2000M**: Whirlwind 1, Golden Warrior 2.
**4. Fortune Cup - 1600M**: Magnifico 1, Togo 2, Cortado 3.
**5. Malpensa Cup - 2400M**: Garth 1, Black Diamond 2, Sanaya 3.
**6. Violin Handicap (Div-I) - 1400M**: Cashable 1, Only Dreams 2, Paulite Warrior 3.
**7. Violin Handicap (Div-II) - 1400M**: Immortal Beauty 1, Desert Charm 2, Brave Majesty 3.
**Day's best**: Garth.
**Jackpot**: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **I treble**: 2, 3 & 4. **II treble**: 5, 6 & 7.

CRICKET WPL

# RCB take on MI in opener

## Onus on skipper Mandhana to lift batting in Perry's absence

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
DH NEWS SERVICE

There has been a sense of vacuum in and around the Royal Challengers Bengaluru in recent days, and it is because they are used to having Ellyse Perry in their dressing room for three years straight.

And that has been the focal point of RCB's talks in the lead-up to the Women's Premier League (WPL), starting Friday at the DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai.

In the 26 games across three seasons, RCB have only once played without Perry, and the result is not something the fans would want to look at.

Despite Smriti Mandhana's 43-ball 74, they failed to chase down 195 against the Delhi Capitals at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

However, the best time to move on is the present, and the Mandhana-led RCB will certainly be looking forward to taking on the formidable Mumbai Indians in the tournament opener.

In these circumstances, the onus will largely be on the batting unit. Mandhana will be the cynosure of all eyes, having enjoyed a record-breaking 2025, scoring 1703 international runs, the most by a woman in a calendar year.

While Mandhana has been a benchmark of run-making on the international stage, the same can't be said in the WPL.

In 26 matches, she has managed just 646 runs at an average of 24.84 and with a strike rate of 128.68 with four fifties.

And for a Perry-less RCB, a lot will ride on Mandhana's batting performance, especially after failing to make the knockouts twice in the last three years.

The 2024 WPL champions have also bolstered their batting by signing Georgia Voll, Nadine de Klerk and Grace Harris, and they seem to have covered all bases.

The bowling department consists of Lauren Bell, Arundhati Reddy, Pooja Vastrakar, Shreyanka Patil, Linsey Smith, Radha Yadav and Prema Rawat.

While it is among the best in the competition on paper, Vastrakar has not played a competitive game since October 2024, and Shreyanka has played just five.

However, it will boil down to how they find their groove and manage their bowling fitness in a tournament that is unforgiving of its bowlers.

On the other hand, two-time champions Mumbai Indians come in as the tournament favourites yet again, given their experience with three international captains in Harmanpreet Kaur, Nat Sciver-Brunt and Hayley Matthews.

While MI ooze class and experience, they also have young blood with G Kamalini, who could cause some happy selection headaches at the top of the order.

On the bowling front, they will be operating with the likes of pace ace Shabnim Ismail, Amelia Kerr, Milly Illingworth and Saika Ishaque.

So, when the floodlights are switched on at the DY Patil Sports Complex on Friday night, a venue that soaked in the glory of India's first-ever ODI World Cup triumph, Mandhana will look to take her first step towards WPL redemption and RCB, their lost touch.

**The Teams (from): Royal Challengers Bengaluru**: Smriti Mandhana (c), Richa Ghosh, Sayali Satghare, Shreyanka Patil, Georgia Voll, Nadine de Klerk, Radha Yadav, Lauren Bell, Linsey Smith, Prema Rawat, Arundhati Reddy, Pooja Vastrakar, Grace Harris, Gautami Naik, Prathyoosha Kumar, Dayalan Hemalath.

**Mumbai Indians**: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Nat Sciver-Brunt, Hayley Matthews, Amanjot Kaur, G. Kamalini, Amelia Kerr, Shabnim Ismail, Sanskriti Gupta, Sajana Sajeevan, Rahila Firdous, Nicola Carey, Poonam Khemnar, Triveni Vasistha, Nalla Reddy, Saika Ishaque, Milly Illingworth.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru will bank on skipper Smriti Mandhana to give a good start against Harmanpreet Kaur-led Mumbai Indians in the Women's Premier League opener in Navi Mumbai on Friday. PTI

## BCB writes second letter to ICC for venue change

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Thursday formally sent a second communication to the ICC, explaining the specific security concerns about travelling to India for the T20 World Cup while reiterating its demand for a change of venue to Sri Lanka.

The World Cup gets underway on February 7 and Bangladesh are scheduled to play four games (three in Kolkata and one in Mumbai).

They have refused to travel to India after pacer Mustafizur Rahman was released from the IPL on instructions of the BCCI, which cited unspecified "developments all around" to justify the decision.

"Following discussions with sports ministry advisor Asif Nazrul, the BCB has once again sent a communication to the ICC. The ICC wanted to know areas of concern with regards to security and BCB has cited them," a source close to the cricket board told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

However, he did not elaborate on the specifics of the letter.

The development comes amid sustained back-and-forth between the BCB and the ICC over Bangladesh's participation. The global body has maintained a stoic silence so far and has sought clarity on the exact nature of the security apprehensions being flagged by the Dhaka-based board.

# Sabalenka advances as Keys survives

BRISBANE, AFP

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka said she still had room for improvement after a second dominant win in the Brisbane International on Thursday.

Sabalenka was pushed at times by 36-year-old Sorana Cirstea but was never really troubled by the Romanian as she notched a 6-3, 6-3 win to reach the quarterfinals of the season-opening tournament.

The Belarusian will next play Madison Keys **(in pic)**, the American who beat her in last year's Australian Open final.

Keys came back from a set and a break down to overcome Russia's Diana Shnaider in a three-hour marathon 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/4).

There was a shock in the last of the night's matches when Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk stunned world No. 3 Amanda Anisimova 6-4, 6-3 in a high-quality match on centre court.

Sabalenka said she aimed to get better as she targets a third Australian Open title in four years when the first Grand Slam of the year begins in Melbourne on January 18.

Sabalenka said tournaments such as Brisbane, which features seven of the top 10 women, were perfect preparation for a Grand Slam.

Keys, who won her first Grand Slam title in Melbourne over Sabalenka, was in trouble against 21-year-old Shnaider but was able to stay in the contest and edge ahead in the last two tiebreaks.

Kostyuk played the match of her life to down Anisimova, who reached the finals of Wimbledon and the US Open in 2025.

Former Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina reached the quarter-finals with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Spain's Paula Badosa.

World No. 5 Rybakina took control at 3-3 in the first set, winning nine of the next 11 games to seal victory.

Fourth seed Jessica Pegula also came back from a set down beat Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska 5-7, 6-2, 6-3.

## Skipper Kashvi sizzles yet again

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Continuing to lead from the front, skipper Kashvi Kandikuppa hammered yet another ton to propel Karnataka to a commanding 122-run victory over Rajasthan during their fourth group game of the BCCI Women's Under-15 One Day Trophy Elite in Kolkata on Thursday.

One-drop batter Kashvi took 84 balls to score 121 runs -- her second century of the tournament that makes her the lead run-getter (348 runs) in the tournament. Kashvi's knock propelled Karnataka's total of 233/7 in 35 overs.

Later, Harshitha K (4/10) snatched the spotlight by claiming four wickets that restricted Rajasthan to 111 /8 in 35 overs.

With four wins in a row, the Karnataka girls sit on top of Group D with 16 points.

**Brief scores:** Karnataka: 233/7 in 35 overs (Sheetal Santosh 45, Kashvi Kandikuppa 121, Yashika K Gowda 55; Aarti 2-31) bt Rajasthan: 111/8 in 35 overs (Sarika Soni 34; Harshitha K 4-10, Nesara Saptha Girish 2-13) by 122 runs.

# India's singles campaign ends

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

India's singles campaign came to an end at the Bengaluru Open quarterfinals as both Manas Dhamne and Dhakshineswar Suresh lost their matches in straight sets at the SM Krishna Stadium on Thursday.

India's chances remain open in the doubles as N Sriram Balaji, along with his Austrian partner Neil Oberleitner, defeated Kazakh-Russian pair Grigoriy Lomakin and Petr Bar Biryukov 6-7 (8), 6-4, 10-6.

World No. 556 Dhamne went down to No. 319 Matteo Martineau 4-6, 5-7 (5) in what was the 18-year-old boy's deepest run at an ATP 125 Challenger event. Meanwhile, Dhakshineswar battled a couple of medical timeouts before going down to second seed Harold Mayot 6-7 (5), 2-6.

Dhakshineswar, however, showed his abilities with his explosive game as he got the crowd by his side from his second service game onwards after a shaky start. The big-serving 6'5" Indian, who is in his final semester at the US collegiate at Wake Forest University, served to the T while enjoying the extra bounce off the high-altitude venue facilitating his kick serves.

Dhakhineswar Suresh prepares to return during his quarterfinal defeat to France's Harold Mayot at the Bengaluru Open on Thursday. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR P S

He had a capable opponent at the other side of the net as the 23-year-old Frenchman, who ousted Sumit Nagal in a three-hour marathon less than 24 hours ago, showed he has the service game to take advantage of the conditions.

The duo held on to their serves without much trouble for most of the first set but the quick-feet Frenchman was showing his familiar traits of reading his rivals as he looked to unsettle Dhakshineswar by readjusting his position for the return.

Interestingly, Mayot also restricted his backhand returns to slice, admittedly to an existent wrist injury, but was using it efficiently to skid the ball on the court, forcing the tall Indian to put in extra effort to return them on the backhand. The Indian did impress with his ability to return but wasn't as consistent at his rival, who was thinking off his feet.

The ploys came to fruition in the tie-breaker as the experienced tour player managed a couple of good returns when Dhakshineswar missed his spots, allowing the second seed Frenchman to open up a three set-point opportunity. Knowing the Indian, he trusted his big serve to keep his chances open but a forehand net error on the volley cost him.

Errors crept in further in the Indian game by now as he took a short medical break in between the sets. His big serves turned inaccurate too and Mayot made the most out of it by opening up a 4-0 lead with back-to-back break points.

Dhakshineswar took another long medical break before returning to win two games of his serves while the Frenchman did rest of the formalities.

Meanwhile teenager Manas' dream run ended at the home event despite a gritty battle with Martineau.

Dropping just two games to a solid Martineau was enough as the Frenchman closed out the match once the lead was taken.

**Results: Quarterfinals: Singles:** 1xPedro Martinez (ESP) bt Cedrik-Marcel Stebe (Ger) 6-2, 6-0; 6xTimofey Skatov (Kaz) bt Jonas Forejtek (CZE) 6-4, 6-2; Matteo Martineau (Fra) bt Manas Dhamne (Ind) 6-4, 7-6(5); 2xHarold Mayot (Fra) bt Dhakshineswar Suresh (Ind) 7-6(5), 6-2.
**Doubles:** 3xArthur Reymond/ Luca Sanchez (Fra) bt Adil Kalyanpur/Saketh Myneni (Ind) 5-7, 6-4, 10-8; Nicolas Barrientos (Col)/ Benjamin Kittay (USA) bt SD Prajwal Dev/ Nitin Kumar Sinha (Ind) 6-7(3), 6-3, 10-8.

# Anand recovers for a share of lead

KOLKATA, PTI

Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand recovered from an early setback to register two victories and emerge as joint leader with Nihal Sarin after six rounds of the Tata Steel Chess India Rapid here on Thursday.

Rounds four to six produced fighting chess and frequent shifts at the top of the standings in both the Open and Women's sections. Both Anand and Nihal are tied on 4.5 points.

In round four, the 56-year-old Anand appeared to be pressing in the middle game before a rook blunder allowed Arjun Erigaisi to turn the tables. The young Indian defended patiently and later capitalised on an endgame error to seal the win.

Anand, however, bounced back strongly, picking up full points against Hans Niemann and Volodar Murzin in the next two rounds to return to the top of the standings.

Nihal, meanwhile, surged into joint lead with three successive wins. He first capitalised on a knight blunder by Niemann, followed it up with a neat back-rank combination against Murzin, and then showcased fine endgame technique to defeat compatriot Vidit Gujrathi in a knight endgame.

Viswanathan Anand

Elsewhere, Aravindh Chithambaram went down to Wei Yi, while R Praggnanandhaa methodically outplayed Murzin on the queenside.

In round five, Anand's clash against Niemann featured opposite-side castling in the Italian, with the Indian defending calmly before converting with active rook play and a superior pawn structure.

Vidit and Praggnanandhaa settled for a quick draw, while Arjun prevailed in a subtle rook endgame by pushing a pawn race from a symmetrical position.

## ATP reduces obligatory events

**PARIS, AFP:** The ATP on Thursday announced a slight compromise with disgruntled players by reducing the number of obligatory tournaments they must play each year in an ever more packed schedule.

Wimbledon champion Jannik Sinner and world number one Carlos Alcaraz are amongst the top male players to have complained about the heavy workload.

The ATP said it was reducing the number of ATP 500 events players must take part in each year from five to four, and also cutting back the maximum number of events used to calculate ranking points, from 19 to 18.

Top 30 ATP players are obliged, unless injured, to compete in the four Grand Slams, the nine Masters 1000 tournaments, the ATP Finals (if they qualify) and four ATP 500 events.

Another compromise is that anyone who pulls out of an ongoing tournament due to the birth or adoption of a child will now keep the ranking points, meaning they would not have to play in an extra tournament to gain ranking points for the ATP Finals.

## Barca drub Athletic 5-0 to storm into Super Cup final

**JEDDAH, AFP:** Raphinha netted twice as Barcelona strolled into the Spanish Super Cup final with a dominant 5-0 semifinal win over Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday in Saudi Arabia.

The holders and record 15-time champions will face either Real Madrid or Atletico Madrid, who meet Thursday, in Sunday's final.

Hansi Flick began with teenage star Lamine Yamal on the bench but his team was still able to ease to a comfortable victory at the King Abdullah Sports City stadium in Jeddah.

### Difficult season

The La Liga leaders have now won nine matches in a row across all competitions and Athletic, enduring a difficult season, were ripped to shreds.

Last season Barca went on to win La Liga and the Copa del Rey after Flick's side won the Spanish Super Cup for the first trophy of the German's reign and the coach had said he wanted to use the competition as a springboard for more success again.

"It's us who make games easy or hard -- when we're playing well, doing things right, defending well, attacking well, the game is easier," Raphinha told Movistar.

The forward has been in fine form since returning from a hamstring injury that kept him out for around two months.

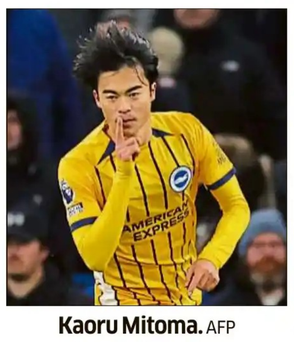
# City, Villa falter in title race

LONDON, AFP

Manchester City and Aston Villa missed the chance to make significant inroads into Arsenal's Premier League lead on Wednesday as managerless Manchester United were held at lowly Burnley.

Elsewhere on a frantic night of action, 10-man Chelsea went down 2-1 at Fulham in front of new boss Liam Rosenior and Antoine Semenyo scored a fairytale winner for Bournemouth against Tottenham.

Erling Haaland scored his 150th City goal from the penalty spot to put Pep Guardiola's team ahead at the Etihad but Kaoru Mitoma made it 1-1 in the second half for Brighton.



Kaoru Mitoma. AFP

Norway forward Haaland has reached 150 goals in all competitions in his 173rd appearance -- 28 games faster than any other Premier League player.

But he and his team-mates squandered a succession of chances as they drew a third game in a row.

City are now on 43 points, five behind Arsenal, who can go eight clear with a home win against Liverpool on Thursday.

Villa are level on points with City following a costly goalless draw at Crystal Palace.

Bournemouth beat troubled Tottenham 3-2, with Semenyo scoring from outside the area deep into stoppage time on his 26th birthday.

**Results:** Bournemouth: 3 (Evanilson 22nd, Kroupi 36th, Semenyo 90+5) bt Tottenham: 2 (Tel 5th, Palhinha 78th); Brentford: 3 (Thiago 30th, 65th, Yarmolyuk 73rd) bt Sunderland: 0; Burnley: 2 (Heaven 13 og, Anthony 66th) drew with Manchester United: 2 (Sesko 50th, 60th); Crystal Palace: 0 drew with Aston Villa: 0; Everton: 1 (Keane 17th) drew with Wolves: 1 (Mane 69th); Fulham: 2 (Jimenez 55th, Wilson 81st) bt Chelsea: 1 (Delap 72nd); Manchester City: 1 (Haaland 41st) drew with Brighton: 1 (Mitoma 60th); Newcastle: 4 (Barnes 36th, 90+12, Joelinton 54th, Guimaraes 90+1) bt Leeds: 3 (Aaronson 32nd, 79th, Calvert-Lewin 45+5).

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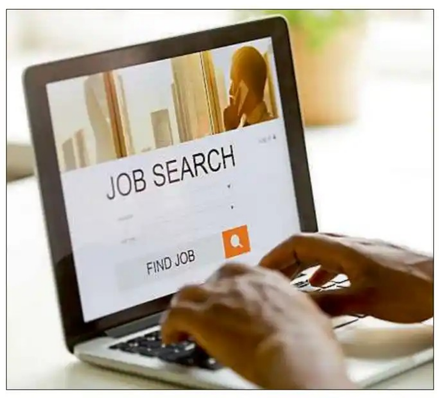
# Most Indian professionals plan to switch jobs in 2026, says report




## 84% feel unprepared to find a new job, amid AI's rise in hiring process

NEW DELHI, PTI

A significant percentage of Indian professionals are looking for a new role in 2026, but many feel lost in an AI-driven hiring process amid rising competition, uncertainty about role fit and skills gaps, according to a LinkedIn report.

As per the new research from LinkedIn, 84% of professionals feel unprepared to find a new job, amid the rise of AI in the hiring process, rapidly shifting skill requirements for today's jobs, and an increasingly competitive, but selective, job market.

According to LinkedIn data, applicants per open role in India have more than doubled since early 2022, intensifying competition and leaving many feeling unprepared. Moreover, nearly 74% of Indian recruiters said it has become harder over the last year to find qualified talent.

"AI is now a foundational part of how careers are built and how talent is evaluated across India's job market. What professionals need most is a clear understanding of how their skills translate into opportunity and how hiring decisions are actually made. When used with purpose, AI tools can bridge that gap by helping people identify the roles they're right for, prepare with intent, and focus their learning where it matters most," said Nirajita Banerjee, LinkedIn Career Expert and Senior Managing Editor, LinkedIn India News.

This year's LinkedIn's India Jobs on the Rise report ranks Prompt Engineer, AI Engineer, and Software Engineer as the top three job roles showing sustained demand for AI and tech talent.

Beyond pure tech, the rankings show healthy demand across sales and brand strategy, cybersecurity, and advisory functions, as per LinkedIn.

For improving job search and role matching, LinkedIn also offers a wide range of AI tools, including AI-powered job search, which lets members search for jobs in their own words and discover roles they might never have thought to look for.

The Consumer and Global HR Professionals Research was conducted by Censuswide in November 2025 among 19,113 respondents who work full time/part time or who are unemployed but are currently looking for a role (aged 18-79) between November 13 and November 28, 2025, and among 6,554 global HR professionals between November 10 and November 27, 2025.

## Silver crashes Rs 12,500 to Rs 2.43 lakh/kg

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Silver prices declined sharply from record levels, plummeting Rs 12,500 to Rs 2,43,500 per kg, while gold receded by Rs 900 in the national capital on Thursday, amid a rush of profit-booking globally.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal surged Rs 5,000 to touch a record high of Rs 2,56,000 per kg in the previous session on Wednesday.

In the local bullion market, the price of gold of 99.9% purity decreased by Rs 900 to Rs 1,40,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) compared to the previous close of Rs 1,41,400 per 10 grams. "Gold extended its fall on Thursday, weighed down by long liquidation as traders reduced their positions due to ease of safe-haven demand and a stable US dollar," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst—Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the international markets, spot gold fell by $29.65, or 0.67%, to $4,426.91 per ounce, while silver traded 3.22% lower, or $2.51, to $75.67 per ounce.

Investors adopted a cautious stance ahead of rulings on Trump tariffs by the US Supreme Court on Friday and the release of the December labour market data, which also acted as headwinds for bullion prices, Gandhi said.

# Sensex tanks 780 points on renewed trade uncertainties

## Losses in oil & gas, commodity stocks add to pressure

MUMBAI, PTI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty fell sharply by nearly 1% on Thursday, continuing their weak momentum for the fourth straight session, due to renewed concerns over potential US tariff hikes amid widespread selling pressure in global markets.

Deep losses in metal, oil & gas, and commodity stocks amid unabated foreign fund outflows added to the pressure, analysts said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 780.18 points, or 0.92%, to settle at 84,180.96. During the day, it plummeted 851.04 points, or 1%, to 84,110.10.

A total of 3,158 stocks declined while 1,039 advanced and 170 remained unchanged on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty tumbled 263.90 points or 1.01 per cent to 25,876.85.

"Market sentiment deteriorated amid heightened geopolitical tensions and global trade-related concerns, which weighed on overall risk appetite. Continued foreign institutional selling, coupled with weakness in the rupee, further added to the negative bias. With global cues remaining mixed and the earnings season approaching, trading activity remained cautious and largely stock-specific," Ajit Mishra — SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Larsen & Toubro, Tech Mahindra, TCS, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel, and Trent were among the biggest laggards. On the other hand, Eternal, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, and Bharat Electronics were the gainers.

"Indian equity markets extended losses for a fourth consecutive session on Thursday, recording their largest decline in over four months," Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

In the past four days, the BSE benchmark has tanked 1,581.05 points or 1.84%, and the Nifty dropped 451.7 points or 1.71%.

US President Donald Trump has backed a sanctions bill that could impose 500% tariffs on countries buying Russian oil, giving the White House leverage against countries like China and India to stop them from purchasing cheap oil from Moscow.

US Senator Lindsey Graham on Wednesday said the legislation would give the White House "tremendous leverage" against countries like China, India and Brazil to incentivise them to stop buying cheap oil from Russia.

"Domestic markets extended losses as sentiment turned cautious amid renewed concerns over US tariffs and persistent FII outflows, overshadowing optimism around earnings growth," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

The BSE midcap gauge dropped 1.99%, and the smallcap index declined by 1.97%.

Among sectoral indices, metal tanked 3.34%, oil & gas (3.15%), power (2.92%), energy (2.64%), industrials (2.36%), commodities (2.36%), PSU bank (2.21%), BSE Focused IT (2.04%) and utilities (2%).

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi index was higher, while Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended lower. Markets in Europe were trading marginally lower. US markets ended mostly lower on Wednesday.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 1,527.71 crore on Wednesday, while domestic institutional investors bought stocks worth Rs 2,889.32 crore, according to exchange data.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.75% to $60.42 per barrel.

# India's GDP growth may fall to 6.6% in 2026: UN report

## Demands from other markets to partially offset US tariff effect

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's GDP growth is likely to slow to 6.6% in 2026 from an estimated 7.4% expansion recorded in the previous year as geopolitical tensions, fiscal pressures and policy uncertainty cloud the global economic outlook, the United Nations said in a report on Thursday.

António Guterres

Despite the slowdown, India would remain among the world's fastest-growing major economies.

"Resilient household spending, strong public investment, and lower interest rates are expected to underpin economic activity," the UN said in its World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026 report.

As per the UN report, high tariffs imposed by the US on Indian products are likely to weigh on select product categories. However, key export segments are likely to remain largely unaffected. "Moreover, strong demand from other major markets is expected to partially offset the impact," it said. The Trump administration has imposed a steep 50% tariff on imports of the majority of products from India. Trump's administration has threatened to further increase the tariff to 500% for continued purchase of Russian oil.

As per the UN report, the global economic growth is expected to fall to 2.7% in 2026, slightly below the 2.8% estimated for 2025, and well-below the pre-pandemic average of 3.2%. "A combination of economic, geopolitical and technological tensions is reshaping the global landscape, generating new economic uncertainty and social vulnerabilities," UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in a statement.

"Many developing economies continue to struggle and, as a result, progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals remains distant for much of the world," he added.

The report underscores that navigating an era of trade realignments, persistent price pressures, and climate-related shocks will demand deeper global coordination and decisive collective action at a time when geopolitical tensions are rising, policies are becoming more inward-looking, and impetus towards multilateral solutions is weakening.

## SBI pegs growth at 7.5%

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** India's economy is expected to grow at 7.5% in 2025-26 with upward bias, marginally higher from NSO's estimate of 7.4%, according to a report by State Bank of India.

The First Advance Estimates released by National Statistics Office (NSO) on Wednesday put GDP growth in 2025-26 at 7.4%, as compared to 6.5% in the previous fiscal. The RBI has projected the growth rate at 7.3%.

The gross value added (GVA) growth is estimated at 7.3% and nominal GDP expansion at 8%.

Historically, the difference between RBI's estimate and NSO's estimate is 20-30 basis points, and hence, the 7.4% estimate is quite expected and reasonable, said the research report from SBI's Economic Research Department.

"We, however, believe that GDP growth for FY26 would be around 7.5% with upward bias. The second advance estimates, incorporating additional data and revisions, are scheduled to be released on February 27, 2026. So, all these numbers are expected to change with the base revision to 2022-23," it said.

## Dell's 'Tech ON Wheels' to take solutions to doorsteps

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Just like quick commerce, quick tech is here, as Dell Technologies launched Tech ON Wheels, a mobile experience centre, here on Thursday. Over the next six months, Tech ON Wheels will travel across 20 cities and cover over 80 locations, showcasing Dell's latest solutions portfolio, including laptops, desktops, servers, and peripherals.

Dell Technologies India President and Managing Director Manish Gupta, who inaugurated the mobile experience centre, said innovation should meet you where you are. "The idea is to take technology to customers, rather than bringing customers to technology," Gupta said.

"Things are changing at such a phenomenal pace that all our customers, across verticals and cities, need a roadmap on how they should progress in this digital future. We are going on the road to connect directly with businesses of all forms and sizes across 20 cities and 80 locations in India. By taking our latest solutions to their doorstep, we aren't just showcasing products, but helping businesses discover solutions tailored to their specific needs. They can find the tools they need to drive growth, solve realworld challenges, and accelerate their own digital transformation journeys," he added.

"As India expands beyond the large cities, smaller cities are growing. And this experience centre gets them the best-in-class technology and solutions at their doorsteps. The seeds of quick tech are getting formed in India. Whether it's a small customer or a big customer in any part of India, now the innovation and solutions reach them," Intel Managing Director and Vice President–India Region Santhosh Viswanathan said.

The mobile experience centre will visit major business and IT hubs in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, and other cities across the country.

Dell Technologies India Senior Director and General Manager, Client Solutions Group, Indrajit Belgundi, told *DH* that whether it's small business, medium business or enterprise customers, they would like to see solutions that are available for them. "Tech ON Wheels is an opportunity for customers to see our product portfolio and innovations that we are bringing in," he said.

The showcase includes a smart desk zone featuring workspace solutions such as the Dell Precision Mobile Workstations, Dell Pro Tower Essential desktops, latest monitors, docks, and wireless headphones. It also includes the latest range of AI PCs.

Dell's 'Tech ON Wheels' mobile experience centre

# CSMIA records 55.5-mn passenger traffic in CY2025

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Airliners parked on the apron of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai. PTI FILE PHOTO

Closing the year on a strong note, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) here recorded overall passenger traffic of around 55.5 million in CY2025, marking a steady year of growth alongside multiple operational milestones.

The annual traffic included over 16.3 million international passengers and 39.2 million domestic passengers, reflecting a year-on-year growth of approximately 1.3% compared to CY2024 with 54.8 million passengers, and an overall increase of 7.6% over CY2023 passenger traffic numbers.

Passenger movement at CSMIA during the year was driven by strong seasonal demand and peak travel periods.

January 2025 emerged as the busiest month, welcoming close to 5 million passengers, followed closely by November 2025, with approximately 4.9 million passengers. November was particularly noteworthy, as CSMIA recorded its top-three highest single-day passenger traffic figures during the month, including its highest-ever single-day throughput of 1,75,925 passengers on November 29, 2025. The October-December quarter (Q4) also marked the highest quarterly traffic, with 14.36 million passengers handled in Q4.

Operational throughput at CSMIA also reached new highs during CY25. The airport handled a total of 3,31,011 Air Traffic Movements (ATMs), including 92,141 international and 2,38,870 domestic ATMs.

A new record was also achieved on November 21, 2025, when CSMIA handled 1,036 ATMs, the highest number of ATMs recorded at the airport in a day. Overall, ATMs at CSMIA have grown by approximately 25% from CY2022.

## Amagi sets IPO price band at Rs 343-361

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Amagi Media Labs has announced a price band of Rs 343-Rs 361 per share for its IPO. The Rs 1,788.62-crore public issue will open for subscription on January 13 and close on January 16.

Bids can be made for a minimum of 41 equity shares of face value Rs 5 each. The proposed IPO comprises a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 816 crore, along with an OFS of 2.7 crore shares.

The OFS includes up to 9,889,646 equity shares by PI Opportunities Fund I and up to 5,072,582 equity shares by Accel India VI (Mauritius) Ltd, among others.

## On-the-go: Ather Energy boosts fast-charging infrastructure

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Homegrown EV major Ather Energy on Thursday announced that its customers now have access to over 5,000 public fast-chargers equipped with the Light Electric Combined Charging System (LECCS) connector. The said network spans across more than 395 cities and includes over 3,675 fast-chargers directly operated by Ather, complemented by over 1,400 chargers through partner networks.

These chargers are strategically distributed across major metros, tier-2 and 3 cities, as well as, intercity routes, serving those seeking seamless, long-distance rides. Cities such as Bengaluru, Pune, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai now feature over 100 LECCS chargers each, with Bengaluru alone hosting over 240.

States with the most public charger availability include Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Gujarat. Besides, smaller cities like Nashik, Malappuram, and Indore have over 45 public fast-chargers, while Kozhikode and Coimbatore each have over 65. Ather has also extended its charging network internationally, with over 30 fast-chargers operational in Nepal and Sri Lanka.

"Charging infrastructure is a critical enabler of EV adoption, and as we continue to grow, expanding this network remains a key focus for us," Ather Energy CBO Ravneet Singh Phokela said.

DOMINANT SHARE

# BMW to roll out three new EV models in push for more India sales

BLOOMBERG

BMW AG will unveil three new electric vehicles in India as the German carmaker looks to grow its already dominant share of the luxury segment in the world's third-largest auto market.

While the company has yet to release details on the new launches, it's focused on a battery-only strategy for India and has no plans to introduce hybrids to the market, according to Hardeep Singh Brar, president and chief executive officer of BMW's India business.

It's part of a push to have EVs account for a quarter of BMW's sales in the South Asian nation in 2026, up from 21% last year, he said. The carmaker, which sold about 18,000 units in 2025, is already nearing that goal. EVs made up 23% of the sales for the three months ended December 31.

The BMW AG iX1 electric vehicle unveiled at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo in New Delhi, India, on January 17, 2025.

Besides the introduction of new models, some existing cars will get major upgrades as part of a broader rollout of 27 products, Brar said in an interview. "Demand for EVs remains strong, with waiting periods of about three months, and we plan to increase supplies in 2026," he said.

BMW already dominates India's luxury EV market, with Brar estimating it accounts for close to 60% of sales. It has also been gaining market share from arch-rivals Mercedes-Benz Group AG and Audi, despite hefty import levies and rising competition.

The German automaker has withstood the high-profile entry of Tesla Inc. into the Indian market a few months back, with Brar pointing to BMW's rising EV volumes and faster overall growth in the December quarter.

India's EV market is small but growing rapidly, luring global players such as Tesla, BYD and Vinfast who are seeing sluggish demand elsewhere. Growth in global EV sales is expected to slow this year as China winds down some subsidies, Europe wavers on its phase-out of combustion engines, and US producers and policymakers make a U-turn from the segment.

The BMW AG iX1 electric vehicle unveiled at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo in New Delhi on January 17, 2025. BLOOMBERG FILE PHOTO

The average selling price for BMW's EVs in India stands close to Rs 60 lakh ($66,600), similar to the starting price for Tesla's Model Y standard range. Both companies face the hefty 110% tariff on vehicles they import to the country.

The German automaker's most popular model, however, is the locally assembled iX1, which retails for about Rs 50 lakh, and accounted for the bulk of BMW's 3,700 EV sales in India in 2025.

Nearly half of iX1 buyers were first-time luxury customers, with many moving up from mass market brands, attracted by lower running costs and minimal maintenance requirements for EVs, Brar said.

To support EV adoption, BMW has installed 12 high-capacity fast chargers along major highways at intervals of about 300 kilometers (186 miles), along with 52 fast chargers at dealer locations.

BMW is also investing about Rs 400 crore to upgrade dealerships and charging infrastructure.

# Facts manipulated to justify Wangchuk's arrest, SC told

## Counsel says his speech was illegally suppressed to get detention order under NSA

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court was on Thursday told that the grounds for detaining activist Sonam Wangchuk were supplied to him after a flagrant delay of 28 days, in clear violation of the statutory timeline.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing on behalf of the Ladakh-based activist, also claimed that his speech, which appealed for peace, which is available to the administration, was not placed before the detaining authority with the intent to ensure that the order of detention is passed by keeping him oblivious of what had really happened on September 24, 2025.

"Wangchuk could be clearly heard stating in English that the movement would not be through violence, stones or arrows, but through peaceful means. It can even be clearly seen and heard in the video," the counsel submitted before a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Prasanna B Varale.

Sonam Wangchuk

"That is the video I wanted to play to your lordship. You might remember that Gandhiji did the same when there was violence after the Chauri Chaura incident," Sibal, adding that facts were being manipulated to show that Wangchuk is a "criminal".

Sibal claimed he did not threaten the state security, nor did he propagate violence.

He also submitted that the September 26 detention order was based primarily on four videos relied upon by the detaining authority. However, while the grounds of detention were supplied on September 29, the four videos were not furnished to the detainee.

Sibal said, as per the detention law, if the detaining authority was aware of a certain fact that is central to what happened on September 24, which was a video relied upon to show that he was propagating violence, then in centrality it must also include a video which states through Wangchuk's words that he was against violence. "Hiding that fact from the detaining authority will also suggest a kind of malice which would in fact be another ground for declaring the order to be vitiated on grounds of malice."

The court fixed the matter for further hearing on January 12.

# Minor gang-raped by YouTuber, cop in Kanpur; one held

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A 14-year-old schoolgirl was allegedly gang-raped by a YouTuber and a policeman in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur district.

According to police sources, the YouTuber, Shivbaran Yadav, was arrested while the policeman, Amit Maurya, was absconding.

Taking a note of the matter, the government on Thursday shunted out Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Dinesh Chandra Tripathi and suspended a station house officer (SHO) on charges of laxity.

The minor was abducted by the duo while she had gone out to answer the call of nature on Monday night. The duo allegedly gang-raped her in a moving car and dumped her on the road in the wee hours of Tuesday.

The family members approached the police on Wednesday, and an FIR was lodged in this regard. The police, acting swiftly, nabbed the YouTuber and launched a hunt for the cop.

The statement of the victim was recorded before a magistrate on Thursday. It was also alleged that the brother of the YouTuber threatened the victim's family if they pursued the matter further.

Sources said that the Sachendi SHO, Vikram Singh, who tried to suppress the incident, was suspended.

# Narcotics worth Rs 1,980 cr seized in 2025: NCB

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Around 1.34 lakh kg of narcotics worth approximately Rs 1,980 crore was seized by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in 2025, with close to 1,000 drug traffickers arrested during the year.

According to the agency, 1,33,965 kg of drugs were seized last year, while its stepped-up campaign against organised syndicates led to the arrest of 994 traffickers, including 25 foreign nationals, across 447 cases.

The NCB also increased its conviction rate from 60.8% in 2024 to 67% last year, ensuring jail terms for 265 drug offenders in 131 cases where trials were concluded, it said.

Of the 265 convicts, including nine foreign nationals, 39 were awarded the maximum sentence of 20 years, while 210 were sentenced to 10 years or more but less than 20 years in prison. A total fine of Rs 3.3 crore was imposed on the convicts.

To further strengthen its prosecution framework, the NCB said it institutionalised a robust system to monitor trial cases at the zonal, regional and headquarters levels.

In a bid to send a "clear and strong message" to drug trafficking syndicates, special emphasis was placed on the swift disposal of seized narcotic drugs. As a result, 77,773 kg of drugs valued at around Rs 3,889 crore were destroyed in 2025.

The NCB was also successful in securing 16 preventive detention orders against habitual offenders from the competent authority. Strong action was taken against illegal proceeds of narcotic drug trafficking, with assets worth Rs 96.69 crore frozen in 70 cases during the year.

During 2025, the NCB facilitated the issuance of 14 Interpol Red Notices, 22 Interpol Blue Notices and one Interpol Silver Notice. Five absconders were successfully deported from the UAE, Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

# Opposition leader's church visit triggers debate in Kerala

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS:** Kerala Opposition Leader V D Satheesan of the Congress reportedly called on the Syro Malabar Church leadership in Kochi on Wednesday night.

The meeting assumes political significance as Assembly elections are approaching in the state.

According to reports, Satheesan avoided using his official vehicle and arrived in a private car at the church headquarters. He held discussions with Major Archbishop Raphael Thattil and other senior bishops who were present to participate in the synod. The meeting reportedly lasted for over an hour.

Even as video footage of Satheesan's visit to the church headquarters surfaced, he was yet to react to it officially.

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) is seen as having strong prospects of securing support from the Christian community in the forthcoming elections. Recent back-to-back attacks on Christian priests and nuns in several places have dented the BJP's outreach efforts among Christians in Kerala.

At the same time, Christian organisations are reportedly unhappy with the CPM-led government over delays in implementing the recommendations of the J B Koshy Commission reports on the socio-economic and educational issues of the community.

Meanwhile, supporters of the CPM and the BJP have launched a social media campaign targeting Satheesan, alleging that he has not paid similar visits to Hindu community leaders. They have also cited his earlier statements in which he said he would not meet religious or community leaders to seek electoral support.

The CPM and BJP camps have already been accusing the Congress of indulging in minority appeasement.

# MISCELLANY

## ◆ COMICS ◆

### Blondie

LOOK, HONEY, I FOUND A FIFTY-DOLLAR BILL IN YOUR SOCK DRAWER
YOU SHOULD TAKE IT AND GO BUY SOMETHING PRETTY WITH IT
WHY WOULD I WANT TO BUY SOMETHING PRETTY?
I MEANT FOR ME, SILLY!

### Hagar The Horrible

THIS GUY CLAIMS HE WAS ON THE ROWING TEAM IN COLLEGE!
WE SHOULD VERIFY HIS STORY!
VIKING SHIP HANDS WANTED
LET'S SEE YOU TAP A KEG!
VIKING SHIP HAND WANTED

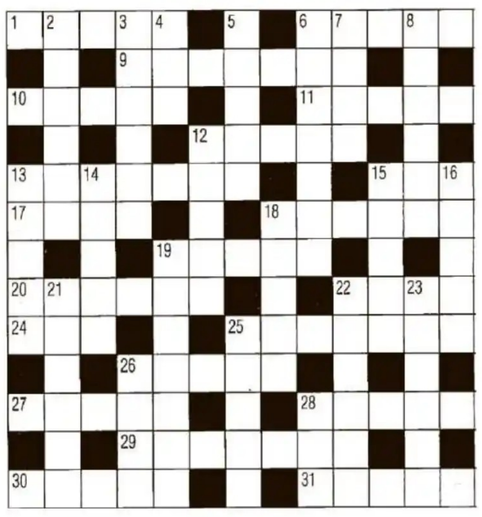
### Beetle Bailey

### Peanuts

DO YOU ALL SEE THAT HILL OVER THERE?
OUR OBJECTIVE TODAY IS TO CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THAT HILL...
ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?
NO, CONRAD, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE MEANING OF LIFE IS!

### Marvin

## CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12328



**CRYPTIC**

**ACROSS**
1 The sort of monkey-business that wrecks a ship? (5)
6 Mean to get drunk (5)
9 Pictures of wheels? (7)
10 Being big is wonderful (5)
11 Only a long-headed individual (5)
12 Revolutionary assembly helping to support rail travel (5)
13 Make out that cinders are sifted (7)
15 Field of pleasure (3)
17 Every one is packed in a tea chest (4)
18 New fashioned service (6)
19 On the way, always keep out of the ditch! (5)
20 Where to work away for a cut price (6)
22 He'll give you a squeeze, love (4)
24 Self-centred fathead in a pixie hood! (3)
25 Dad has no wood to make a fine display! (7)
26 A clan migrating by water (5)
27 Investment finally gets a poor return for this group (5)
28 To back her is a help (5)
29 Goat-men are capable of explosive power! (7)
30 Benders the lower members have (5)
31 Urged to give a boy a bit of breakfast (5)

**DOWN**
2 In court, she's defensive (6)
3 It lends inflexibility to a leader at church (6)
4 A chutney ingredient's humble place (3)
5 It grows dome-shaped (5)
6 Judas, apparently, replaced a tractor part (7)
7 Land in the water (4)
8 He's known to be hungry for pursuit (6)
12 Going out of turn, Bert upsets the blighter! (5)
13 Writer fed up with a piece of poetry (5)
14 Abrade the cuffs? (5)
15 Mounting assistance (3,2)
16 Refusal, in any case, to be a nuisance (5)
18 Possibly iron tin opener used during dinner (5)
19 Though soft in caress, perhaps, is abrasive (7)
21 Two Florentine pieces once in circulation (6)
22 Aspiring to be greedy about a jewellery item (6)
23 To fine leg? (6)
25 Standard Anglo-Saxon soldiers (5)
26 Arrive to join me and the commander (4)
28 Buck? No John (3)

**ACROSS**
1 Play dishonestly (5)
6 Courage (5)
9 Arthurian knight (7)
10 Sound of contempt (5)
11 Instruct (5)
12 Petty officer (5)
13 Spear (7)
15 Insect (3)
17 Dry (4)
18 Greet (6)
19 Shakespearean spirit (5)
20 Decrees (6)
22 Celebrity (4)
24 Speck (3)
25 Stops (7)
26 Transparent (5)
27 Look fixedly (5)
28 Thing of value (5)
29 Non-believer (7)
30 Felony (5)
31 Hurry (5)

**DOWN**
2 Aircraft's building (6)
3 Tallied (6)
4 Rubbish (3)
5 Textile fibre (5)
6 Unaffected (7)
7 Paradise (4)
8 Unoccupied (6)
12 Coffin platforms (5)
13 Exhausted (5)
14 Call (5)
15 Relatives (5)
16 Rips (5)
18 Cut (5)
19 Sportsman (7)
21 Medical practitioner (6)
22 Afternoon nap (6)
23 Affirm (6)
25 Old-fashioned (5)
26 Stuff (4)
28 Charred remains (3)

**SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12327**

**CRYPTIC**
**ACROSS:** 4, Merits 7, Ple-Thora 8, Crooks 10, C-hump 13, Chef 14, Ease 15, Root 16, WO-O 17, Tro-Y 19, A-von 21, Pro-Motion 23, Due-S 24, Toll 26, Rep. 27, The-y 29, Grid 32, Pe-as 33, S.a.-Una 34, De-port 35, C-hampers 36, Star-Ch.
**DOWN:** 1, Space 2, Venus 3, CH-ap 4, Mac-ho. 5, R-oof 6, Take on 9, Retail 11, Had 12, Met-RE 13, Coy-otes 15, ROM 16, W-on 18, Ro-ster 20, V-Olga 21, Pu-p 22, To-y 23, Decent 25, Gin 28, Hatch 30, Ruler 31, Daisy 32, P-our 33, So-me.

**EASY**
**ACROSS:** 4, Coward 7, To do with 8, Adorns 10, Brawn 13, Noel 14, Solo 15, Boss 16, Fox 17, Main 19, Palm 21, Mandatory 23, Hand 24, Guts 26, Coy 27, Root 29, Omit 32, Mean 33, Snore 34, Allows 35, Ignorant 36, Swings.
**DOWN:** 1, Stubs 2, Ideal 3, Swan 4, Chaos 5, Wool 6, Ransom 9, Despot 11, Rot 12, Woman 13, Nonagon 15, Bid 16, Fly 18, Andrew 20, Arson 21, May 22, Tut 23, Hollow 25, Fir 28, Oasis 30, Molar 31, Tests 32, Moan 33, Soon.

## ◆SU-DO-KU-6799◆

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | | | 2 | | | | | |
| | | | | | 6 | | | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 9 | | 1 | | 8 | 6 | |
| | | 8 | | | | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 2 | 6 | | | | 4 | | |
| | 9 | 7 | | 4 | | 2 | | 6 |
| 1 | | | 5 | | | | | |
| | | | | | 3 | | | 7 |

hard

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 7 |
| 1 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 3 |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 |
| 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 |

**SOLUTION TO 6798**

**To solve the puzzle:** To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

## SCRABBLE™

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R1 | T1 | C3 | T1 | N1 | O1 | O1 | Triple Word Score | RACK 1 |
| U1 | C3 | T1 | Q10 | S1 | A1 | I1 | Triple Word Score | RACK 2 |
| D2 | Y4 | R1 | E1 | O1 | I1 | J8 | Triple Word Score | RACK 3 |
| I1 | N1 | T1 | R1 | P3 | M3 | I1 | Triple Word Score | RACK 4 |
| H4 | G2 | W4 | I1 | Y4 | T1 | E1 | Triple Word Score | RACK 5 |

PAR SCORE 310-320
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S1 | O1 | A1 | P3 | I1 | E1 | R1 | RACK 1 = | 65 |
| R1 | E1 | D2 | B3 | I1 | R1 | D2 | RACK 2 = | 83 |
| G2 | A1 | N1 | G2 | | | | RACK 3 = | 6 |
| W4 | A1 | L1 | N1 | U1 | T1 | S1 | RACK 4 = | 70 |

PAR SCORE 145-155 JUDD'S TOTAL 224

## HITORI-3253

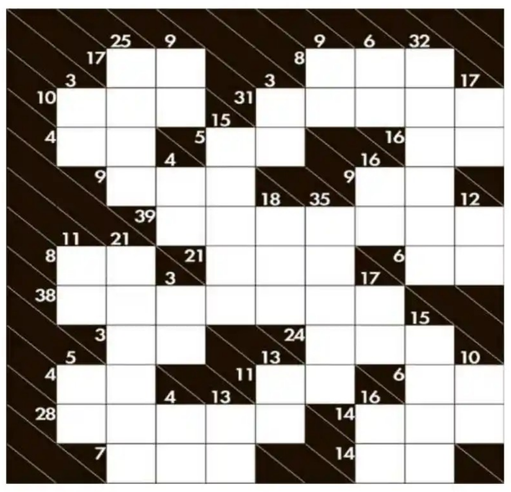
| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| 7 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| 8 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| 8 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 4 |

**SOLUTION TO 3252**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | 8 | ■ | 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 8 | 7 | ■ | 2 | ■ | 1 |
| 8 | ■ | 7 | ■ | 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| ■ | 7 | ■ | 1 | 6 | 8 | ■ | 3 |
| 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 | ■ | 1 | 3 | ■ |
| ■ | 5 | ■ | 6 | 8 | 7 | ■ | 2 |
| 2 | ■ | 3 | 5 | 7 | ■ | 4 | 8 |
| 1 | 2 | 6 | ■ | 3 | 5 | 8 | ■ |

**To solve the puzzle:** Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

## KAKURO- 3253



**SOLUTION TO 3252**

**To solve the puzzle:** Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

## SU DO KU X - 3791

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | | 9 | | | 8 | | | ■ |
| | ■ | | | | | | 4 | |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | | | ■ | | |
| | 9 | | ■ | 6 | | | | 7 |
| | | | | 3 | 1 | | | 5 |
| | | | ■ | 2 | ■ | 8 | | |
| | | ■ | | | | ■ | | |
| 3 | ■ | | | | | | ■ | 8 |
| 7 | | 4 | | | | | | ■ |

**SOLUTION TO 3790**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 7 |
| 6 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| 9 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 9 |

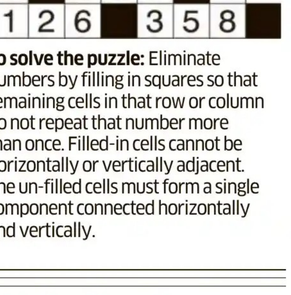
**To solve the puzzle:** The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SAHTS
INONO
DPLDEU
NIDEIV


You outdid yourself, Ben! Who knew?
I love being able to see near and far.
I knew there was a need for this invention.
BIFOCALS WERE BECOMING AS POPULAR AS BEN FRANKLIN ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CIVIC BENCH DOLLAR GUTTER
Answer: They thought installing new motion-activated lights outside their home was a — BRIGHT IDEA

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# Dhaka suspends visa service in India citing security issue

**Business and work visas kept outside the scope of restriction**

DHAKA, PTI

Bangladesh's interim government on Thursday said it has asked its key missions in India, including the one in New Delhi, to suspend visa services citing security concerns.

Foreign Affairs Adviser M Touhid Hossain told a media briefing at his office that Bangladesh has also sought the reversal of a recently imposed visa bond requirement by the United States.

"What I have done is that I have asked our three missions (in India) to keep their visa sections closed for the time being. It's a security issue," Hossain said.

The adviser's remarks came after Bangladesh's Deputy High Commission in Kolkata overnight restricted visa services, following similar steps taken earlier in New Delhi and Agartala. Business and work visas, however, were kept outside the scope of the restriction.

Bangladesh has diplomatic missions in Mumbai and Chennai as well, where visa services remain operational.

India had earlier imposed restrictions on visas for Bangladeshi nationals after August 5, 2024, citing security concerns.

Ties between Dhaka and New Delhi have remained strained since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government was ousted following violent student-led street protests in July–August 2024.

Hossain also said Bangladesh would pursue diplomatic efforts to seek exemption from the US government's newly imposed visa bond requirement, describing the decision as "certainly unfortunate and painful for us".

However, he added that the US move was "not abnormal", noting that the measure was not applied to Bangladesh alone and that several countries were facing immigration-related challenges under the current US administration.

Meanwhile, responding to a question on Bangladesh's "potential interest" in procuring JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft from Pakistan, the Foreign Affairs Adviser said, "I can't tell about this today. But talks are underway. You will know once things are finalised."

## B'desh in talks with Pak on defence cooperation

Bangladesh Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan met Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces Asim Munir on Thursday and discussed bilateral defence cooperation, PTI reports from Islamabad. During the meeting at General Headquarters, Rawalpindi, matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics and avenues for enhancing bilateral defence and military cooperation were discussed, the military said in a statement. "Both sides underscored the importance of strengthening professional collaboration, training exchanges and defence ties between the Armed Forces of Pakistan and Bangladesh," it said. Bangladesh's air chief lauded the professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces and appreciated their contributions towards regional peace and stability, the statement said.

# Trump pulls US out of 66 global bodies

**Exit includes UN agencies and India-based Solar Alliance**

UNITED NATIONS/WASHINGTON, PTI

President Donald Trump has withdrawn the US from more than 60 international organisations, including several United Nations bodies and the India–France-led International Solar Alliance, describing the institutions as "redundant" and "contrary" to America's interests.

Trump signed the memorandum on Wednesday, titled 'Withdrawing the United States from International Organisations, Conventions, and Treaties that Are Contrary to the Interests of the United States'.

After signing the document, Trump said he had determined that it was "contrary" to the interests of the United States to remain a member of, participate in, or otherwise provide support to 66 UN and non-UN organisations. According to a White House fact sheet issued on Wednesday, the list includes 31 UN entities and 35 non-UN organisations that "operate contrary to US national interests, security, economic prosperity, or sovereignty". Trump directed all executive departments and agencies to take immediate steps to implement the withdrawals "as soon as possible".

### Climate panel exit

The list of organisations includes bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the International Solar Alliance, the Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine, and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Also named are the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); the UN Economic Commissions for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and Western Asia; the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict; the Peacebuilding Commission; the Peacebuilding Fund; the UN Conference on Trade and Development; UN Women; the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; and the UN Population Fund.

## India-led solar alliance to keep working with partners

India-led International Solar Alliance will continue to work with the remaining 125 member nations to achieve its climate goals, official sources said after the US withdrawal from the initiative, PTI reports from New Delhi.

Gurugram-headquartered International Solar Alliance is a collaborative initiative between India and France aimed at uniting efforts to combat climate change by implementing solar energy solutions. It was conceptualised on the sidelines of COP21 in Paris in 2015. Following a 2020 amendment to its Framework Agreement, all UN member states are eligible to join the alliance.

Protesters clash with US federal agents outside the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building in Saint Paul, Minnesota, on Thursday. AFP

# Protesters clash with federal agents in Minneapolis after fatal shooting

**US city on edge as protests erupt over ICE crackdown**

MINNEAPOLIS, AP/PTI

Protesters angry over the fatal shooting of a woman by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer clashed with federal agents in the US Midwestern city of Minneapolis on Thursday, as tensions mounted following the incident.

At least one protester was detained as federal officers equipped with pepperball guns and tear gas confronted a large crowd of demonstrators. One protester was seen holding a placard reading "ICE = murder".

The city remained on edge after the killing of 37-year-old Renee Nicole Macklin Good during an ICE operation linked to the Trump administration's latest immigration crackdown. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz urged residents to remain calm, while several schools cancelled classes and activities as a precaution.

State and local officials called on ICE to leave Minnesota following the shooting, but Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem rejected the demand, saying federal agents would continue their operations.

The Department of Homeland Security said it has deployed more than 2,000 officers to the area in what it described as its largest immigration enforcement operation to date. Noem said more than 1,500 people had been arrested.

Macklin Good was shot on Wednesday morning in a residential neighbourhood south of downtown Minneapolis. Videos recorded by witnesses show an officer approaching an SUV stopped in the middle of the road and ordering the driver to open the door.

As the vehicle began to move forward, another ICE officer standing in front of it drew his weapon and fired at least two shots at close range, stepping back as the vehicle moved towards him.

## Indian national stranded on Yemen's island evacuated

**JEDDAH, PTI:** An Indian national, who was stranded on an island in Yemen for the past few weeks, was evacuated to Saudi Arabia, the Indian Embassy in the Gulf nation said on Thursday.

"Indian national Ms Rakki Kishan Gopal, who was stranded on Socotra Island in Yemen for the past few weeks, was successfully evacuated on a special Yemenia flight to Jeddah on Jan 7," the Indian Embassy in Yemen said in a post on X. She was received by officials of the Consulate General of India in Jeddah and returned to India on Thursday.

# US could run Venezuela, tap its oil for years: Trump

WASHINGTON, AFP

The United States could run Venezuela and tap into its oil reserves for years, President Donald Trump said in an interview published Thursday, less than a week after toppling Nicolas Maduro.

"Only time will tell" how long Washington would demand direct oversight of the South American country, Trump told The New York Times.

But when asked whether that meant three months, six months or a year, he replied: "I would say much longer."

His assertion of US dominance over Venezuela comes despite its interim leader Delcy Rodriguez saying there is no foreign power governing Caracas. "There is a stain on our relations such as had never occurred in our history," Rodriguez said of the US attack to depose her predecessor.

US special forces snatched president Maduro and his wife Saturday in a lightning raid and whisked them to New York to face trial on drug and weapons charges, underscoring what Trump has called the "Donroe Doctrine" of US dominance over its backyard. "We obviously have maximum leverage over the interim authorities in Venezuela right now" following the capture operation, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said.

"We're continuing to be in close coordination with the interim authorities, and their decisions are going to continue to be dictated by the United States of America."

Colombian President Gustavo Petro speaks during a rally in in Bogota on Wednesday. REUTERS

## US Prez invites Colombia's Petro to White House

**WASHINGTON, AP/PTI:** President Donald Trump abruptly changed his tone on Wednesday towards his Colombian counterpart, Gustavo Petro, saying the two had exchanged a friendly phone call and that he had invited the South American leader to the White House.

"It was a great honour to speak with the President of Colombia, Gustavo Petro, who called to explain the situation of drugs and other disagreements that we have had," Trump said on Wednesday night.

"I appreciated his call and tone, and look forward to meeting him in the near future," he added. Trump said the meeting would take place at the White House. The shift comes just days after Trump said that "Colombia is very sick too" and accused Petro of "making cocaine and selling it to the United States".

# US turning away from allies: Macron

PARIS, AFP

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday that the United States was "breaking free from international rules" and "gradually turning away" from some of its allies.

Macron delivered his annual speech to French ambassadors at the Elysee Palace as European powers scrambled to come up with a coordinated response to US assertive foreign policy in the Western hemisphere following Washington's capture of Venezuela's leader Nicolas Maduro and Donald Trump's designs on Greenland.

"The United States is an established power, but one that is gradually turning away from some of its allies and breaking free from international rules that it was still promoting recently," Macron told ambassadors at the Elysee Palace.

France's President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech to French ambassadors in Paris on Thursday. REUTERS

"Multilateral institutions are functioning less and less effectively," Macron added. "We are living in a world of great powers with a real temptation to divide up the world."

Macron said Europe must protect its interests and urged the "consolidation" of European regulation of the tech sector. He stressed the importance of safeguarding academic independence and hailed "the possibility of having a controlled information space where opinions can be exchanged completely freely, but where choices are not made by the algorithms of a few."

Brussels has adopted a powerful legal arsenal aimed at reining in tech giants -- namely through its Digital Markets Act (DMA) which covers competition and the Digital Services Act (DSA) on content moderation.

COSMIC MYSTERY

## New findings challenge model of Universe

LONDON, PTI

Scientists have moved a step closer to solving one of the universe's biggest mysteries, with new research suggesting that dark matter and neutrinos — two of its least understood components — may interact with each other, offering a rare window into the darkest recesses of the cosmos.

New research from the University of Sheffield suggests that dark matter and neutrinos, two of the universe's most mysterious components, may interact. Dark matter makes up around 85% of all matter and is detected indirectly, while neutrinos are elusive subatomic particles observed using large underground detectors. The Standard Model of Cosmology, based on Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, assumes these components do not interact. Sheffield's study, published in Nature Astronomy, challenges this long-standing view and offers new insights into the cosmos.

## WORLD AT A GLANCE

Guards escort accused scam boss Chen Zhi off a China Southern plane in Beijing on Thursday. AFP

### Cambodia extradites ringleader of online extortion firm to China

▸ A Chinese tycoon accused of operating a major transnational criminal network defrauding people through telecom fraud has been extradited from Cambodia to China to face trial, PTI reports from Beijing.

Chen Zhi, the ringleader of a major cross-border gambling and fraud criminal syndicate, has been extradited from Cambodia to China, the Ministry of Public Security here said. Investigators said Chen's syndicate is suspected of multiple crimes, including operating illegal gambling operations, committing fraud, engaging in illegal business activities and concealing criminal proceeds. Chen has been placed under compulsory measures, and the case remains under further investigation. A ministry official told the state-run media here that public security authorities will soon issue a wanted notice for the first batch of core members of Chen's syndicate and vowed to bring all fugitives to justice. At the request of Chinese authorities, Cambodia arrested three Chinese nationals – including Chen, the founder of Prince Holding Group – and transferred them to China on Tuesday. Before his extradition, Phnom Penh stripped Chen of his Cambodian nationality.

### 2 killed in shooting near US church

▸ Two people were killed and six others injured in a shooting outside a Salt Lake City church Wednesday night while mourners were attending a memorial service inside, AP/PTI reports from Salt Lake City.

The shooting took place in the back parking lot of a house of worship for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Utah-based faith known widely as the Mormon church. Authorities said no suspect was in custody on Wednesday. All the victims were adults. At least three of the injured were in critical condition, police said. Police said they do not believe the shooter had any animus toward a particular faith. They also don't think the shooting was random.

Farmers protest in front of the National Assembly against the government's handling of the EU-Mercosur trade deal in Paris on Thursday. REUTERS

### Farmers roll tractors into Paris

▸ Farmers drove about a hundred tractors into Paris on Thursday morning to protest the European Union's intention to move forward with a free trade deal with five South American nations, AP/PTI reports from Paris.

Farmers for years have denounced the trade deal with the Mercosur nations of Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay, arguing that the deal would hurt French farmers' livelihoods. Thursday's protest was staged by the Rural Coordination union to put further pressure on France's government, which has opposed the deal. Jose Perez, President of the Rural Coordination in the Lot-et-Garonne region in southwestern France, said, "The goal today is to come to Paris to express our demands closer to those who have the power."

### Russia slams Ukraine peace plan

▸ Russia on Thursday slammed a plan for European peacekeepers to be deployed to Ukraine as "dangerous" and dubbed Kyiv and its allies an "axis of war", dousing hopes the plan could be a step towards ending the almost four-year-war, AFP reports from Moscow.

US President Donald Trump has been pushing the warring sides to strike a deal to halt the conflict, running shuttle diplomacy between Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky and Russia's Vladimir Putin in a bid to get an agreement across the line.

An initial 28-point plan which largely adhered to Moscow's demands was criticised by Kyiv and Europe, and now Russia has slammed the attempts to beef-up protections for Ukraine should an elusive deal be reached.

Actors Janelle James and Connor Storrie announce Chase Infiniti as Best Female Actor in a Leading Role in a Motion Picture during the 32nd Annual Actors Awards in Los Angeles on Wednesday. AFP

Tilak Varma

## Tilak undergoes surgery for groin issue, out of NZ T20I series

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Indian batter Tilak Varma has undergone a surgery for a groin issue that triggered acute pain and will miss the upcoming T20 International series against New Zealand, besides being in serious doubt for the first couple of matches in next month's T20 World Cup.

The 23-year-old was rushed to a hospital after complaining of acute pain in Rajkot, where he is with the Hyderabad team for the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy one-day Championship. The five-match T20I series against New Zealand starts January 21 in Nagpur.

"Tilak Varma reported acute testicular pain in Rajkot where he is part of the Hyderabad team for the Vijay Hazare tournament. He was taken to Gokul Hospital and on scan was diagnosed with testicular torsion (sudden, intense pain) and was advised immediate surgery," a BCCI official told PTI.

"We got an opinion from our specialists who agreed with the same. Tilak underwent successful surgery and is doing well now.

"We will update you as soon as we have more information on his recovery and expected time-frame for his return to play post discussion with the medical panel," he added.

"He is ruled out of the first three T20Is against New Zealand," added a statement from BCCI later.

CRICKET THE ASHES

# Australia sign off in supreme style

## Hosts down England by 5 wickets to complete 4-1 win

SYDNEY, AFP

Australia won the final Ashes Test against England by five wickets on Thursday to seal a dominant 4-1 victory after a gruelling series, sending the retiring Usman Khawaja out on a high.

The nervy hosts saw wickets tumble as they chased their 160 target, which they reached after lunch on day five with Cameron Green not-out 22 and Alex Carey on 16 at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

For England it was the final chapter in a miserable series.

"That's Ashes cricket. Everyone got tense," said Carey, who hit the winning runs.

Australia lost openers Travis Head (29) and Jake Weatherald (34), along with captain Steve Smith (12) and Khawaja, who made six in his final knock before retirement.

Marnus Labuschagne, dropped on 20, compiled 37 before needlessly running himself out to give Ben Stokes' men a flicker of hope as they reduced Australia to 121-5.

But victory was never seriously in doubt after England were dismissed for 342 on the back of Jacob Bethell's stylish 154.

Defeat ended a long tour for the visitors that quickly turned into a horror show when they lost the opening two Tests in Perth and Brisbane by eight wickets and the third at Adelaide by 82 runs.

Stokes' side had arrived confident they could win their first series in Australia since 2010-11 amid taunts about the hosts having their worst side in 15 years.

Facing heavy criticism over their preparations, discipline and ultra-aggressive "Bazball" style of cricket, they rallied to pull off a stunning four-wicket comeback win in the fourth Test in Melbourne.

It was their first victory in 18 Tests on Australian soil and restored some pride, but another loss in Sydney, albeit close, will see them face a tough inquisition on their return home with coach Brendon McCullum's job on the line.

Australia achieved their success despite being without pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood for the series and skipper Pat Cummins for all but one Test, while veteran spin king Nathan Lyon played a limited role.

Nearly 860,000 fans watched the series with a record 211,032 through the turnstiles in Sydney.

Tempers flared earlier on day five when Weatherald survived a review for caught behind on 16 despite the controversial Snicko technology, which has been unreliable all series, appearing to indicate a faint murmur.

An angry Brydon Carse had to be pulled away from complaining to the on-field umpire by Stokes and the bowler exchanged heated words with Weatherald.

**Brief scores:** England: 384 & (O/n: 302/8) 342 all out in 88.2 overs (Ben Duckett 42, Jacob Bethell 154, Harry Brook 42, Jamie Smith 26; Mitchell Starc 3-72, Scott Boland 2-46, Beau Webster 3-64) lt to Australia: 567 & 161/5 in 31.2 overs (Travis Head 29, Jake Weatherald 34, Marnus Labuschagne 37; Josh Tongue 3-42) by 5 wkts.

**Series:** Australia win 4-1.

**PoM:** Travis Head. **PoS:** Mitchell Starc.

Jubilant Australian players celebrate with the Ashes after defeating England 4-1 at the SCG on Thursday. REUTERS

## ECB launches immediate review into Ashes debacle

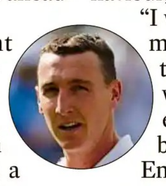
The England and Wales Cricket Board said it had launched an immediate and "thorough" review following the tourists' defeat in the fifth and final Ashes Test on Thursday, reports AFP.

England's preparations, coaching and off-field behaviour all came under the microscope during a demoralising series in Australia which they lost 4-1.

As soon as the series was over, ECB chief executive Richard Gould released a statement calling the team's failure to regain the Ashes "deeply disappointing". Gould said there were "moments of strong performance and resilience", notably victory in the fourth Test in Melbourne, which saved England from a humiliating series whitewash.

While captain Ben Stokes appears safe from the axe, the roles of head of cricket Rob Key and coach Brendon McCullum (**in pic**) are set to come under the microscope. British media have reported that Key and McCullum are likely to survive to show they can make improvements to the England set-up.

## Brook sorry for nightclub fracas



**SYDNEY, AFP:** England's white-ball captain Harry Brook (**in pic**) issued an apology on Thursday saying he was "deeply sorry" for an altercation at a New Zealand nightclub ahead of the Ashes.

Brook's statement came just after England's sorry Ashes concluded in Sydney, with defeat in the fifth Test giving Australia a dominant 4-1 series victory.

The Daily Telegraph reported that Brook, the limited-overs skipper and vice-captain of the Test side in Australia, was involved in an altercation with a nightclub bouncer on October 31.

England lost to hosts New Zealand the next day in the third ODI in Wellington with Brook scoring six.

The 26-year-old Brook was fined £30,000 ($40,000) after reporting the incident to team management and was given a final warning about his behaviour, the newspaper said.

"I want to apologise for my actions. I fully accept that my behaviour was wrong and brought embarrassment to both myself and the England team," he said in a statement. Representing England is the greatest honour of all, which I take seriously and I am deeply sorry for letting down my team-mates, coaches and supporters."

He added: "I am determined to learn from this mistake and to rebuild trust through my future actions, both on and off the field. I apologise unreservedly."

## Ranchi Royals beat SG Pipers to finish third

**RANCHI, PTI:** Lucina von der Heyde and Hannah Cotter netted a brace each as Ranchi Royals outclassed SG Pipers 5-2 in their last match to sign off at the third place, in the Women's Hockey India League here on Thursday.

Lucina (2nd, 47th), Hannah (55th, 60th) and Sangita Kumari (24th) scored goals for the Royals, while Navneet Kaur (10th, 58th) struck twice for the Pipers, who have already qualified for the final.

The Royals earned a penalty corner within the opening minute and drag-flicker Lucina converted gave them an early lead.

But SG Pipers struck back through captain Navneet, as both sides ended the opening quarter evenly poised at 1-1.

In the second quarter, Ranchi Royals applied sustained pressure through repeated circle entries, and their persistence paid off when Sangita, left unmarked inside the circle, fired home to restore the hosts' lead.

The Royals went into the break leading 2-1.

After a goalless third quarter, the Royals took charge of the fourth to put the result beyond doubt.

Lucina struck from a penalty corner to score her second goal of the night and extend the hosts' lead. Hannah then added two late goals in quick succession to end any hopes of a SG Pipers' comeback.

In the meantime, SG Pipers did pull one back through captain Navneet, who netted her second goal of the match, but it proved to be only a consolation as Ranchi Royals sealed a convincing victory.

SP Pipers, despite the defeat, stay on top of the table with 11 points, while Shrachi Bengal Tigers are a point behind in second.

IN BRIEF

## Jain varsity win South Zone title

▸ The Jain University men's badminton team defeated Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation University, Guntur by 3-1 in the final to win the South Zone Inter-University Championship Guntur on Wednesday, reports DHNS

By virtue of this triumph, Jain University qualified for the All India-University Championship and Khelo India University Games.

**Placings**: Jain University (Bengaluru), 1; Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (Guntur), 2; SRM Institute of Science & Technology (Chennai), 3.

## Takale pulls out of Dakar Rally

▸ Indian rally driver Sanjay Takale has withdrawn from the Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia after a major mechanical issue forced an early halt, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The 57-year-old, competing alongside Maxime Raud of France, retired following an engine-related failure encountered upon arrival at the bivouac after Stage 3.

"This is a very tough way to end our Dakar," said Takale in a release.

## ◆ ON TV ◆

**CRICKET**

**Women's Premier League:** Mumbai Indians vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

**2nd T20I:** Sri Lanka vs Pakistan (**7 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

**HOCKEY**

**HIL:** Hyderabad Toofans vs JSW Soorma Hockey Club (**men, 5 pm**); Tamil Nadu Dragons vs SG Pipers (**men, 7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

**TENNIS**

**United Cup:** Quarterfinals (**12 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

**Bengaluru Open:** Semifinals (**11 am**). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

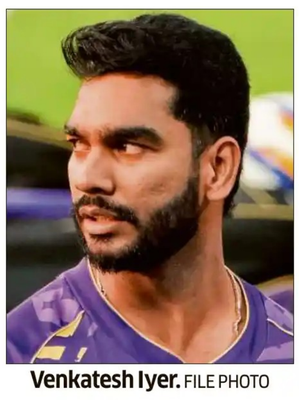
**BADMINTON**

**Malaysia Open:** Quarterfinal (**6:30 am**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

# MP seal quarterfinal berth

## Venkatesh's men hand Karnataka first defeat to finish second in Group A

**SIDNEY KIRAN**
DH NEWS SERVICE



Venkatesh Iyer. FILE PHOTO

A determined Madhya Pradesh brought fire to the field in a must-win final Elite Group A Vijay Hazare Trophy encounter against Karnataka, trouncing the on-song defending champions by seven wickets to secure the second quarterfinal spot in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

With Kerala and Jharkhand -- both on 16 points, the same as MP -- the final set of group games carried a lot of significance for all three sides except Karnataka, who had already buttoned down the top spot in the group and a knockout ticket.

Of the quarterfinal chasing trio, MP faced the toughest examination but the Venkatesh Iyer-led side came out guns blazing to decimate Karnataka with 26.4 overs to spare. Despite the massive win, MP faced some anxious moments as a simple win for Kerala against Tamil Nadu would have taken them into the knockouts on the basis of superior run-rate. But Kerala fluffed their lines badly, losing by 77 runs.

First left-arm spinner Shivang Kumar laid the foundation for MP, his superb 5/45 skittling Karnataka for 207 in 47.4 overs at the Narendra Modi Stadium. Openers Mayank Agarwal (49) and Devdutt Padikkal (35) yet again laid the foundation but middle-order's inconsistency came to the fore again as none of the batters was able to counter Shivang.

MP batters then took the Karnataka attack to the cleaners, first openers Yash Dubey (40) and Himanshu Mantri (34) scoring at run-a-ball to set things up nicely. Skipper Venkatesh, coming in at one-drop, then led from the front with a blistering 33-ball 65 not out to fuel MP's rapid chase.

Karnataka signed off with 24 points from 7 games while MP finished second with 20.

**Elite Group A brief scores:** Karnataka: 207 all out in 47.4 overs (Mayank Agarwal 49, Devdutt Padikkal 35, Vidyadhar Patil 34 n.o.; Shivang Kumar 5-45) lt to Madhya Pradesh: 208/3 in 23.2 overs (Yash Dubey 40, Himanshu Mantri 34, Venkatesh Iyer 65 n.o., Akshat Raghuwanshi 26, Tripuresh Singh 36 n.o.) by 7 wkts. **PoM:** Shivang Kumar.

Tamil Nadu: 294/8 in 50 overs (Athish SR 33, N Jagadeesan 139, C Andre Siddarth 27, Boopathi Kumar 35; Eden Apple Tom 6-46) bt Kerala: 217 all out in 40.2 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 73, Baba Aparajith 35, Vishnu Vinod 35, Salman Nazir 25; Sai Kishore, Sachin Rathi 4-52, Mohamed Ali 4-36) by 77 runs. **PoM:** N Jagadeesan.

Rajasthan: 269/8 in 50 overs (Ramnivas Golada 64, Karan Lamba 108, Kukna Ajay Singh 31; Sagar Udeshi 3-32, Nitin Pranaav 2-51) bt Puducherry: 137 all out in 26.5 overs (Nitin Pranaav 56; Khaleel Ahmed 2-30, Danish Bhambhu 3-35, Manav Suthar 2-38, Ashok Sharma 2-27) by 132 runs. **PoM:** Karan Lamba.

Tripura: 320 all out in 50 overs (Sridam Paul 150, Rajat Dey 102; Sushant Mishra 6-52) bt Jharkhand: 123 all out in 31.1 overs (Kumar Kushagra 26, Rajandeep Singh 29, Manishi 40; Abhijit Sarkar 4-40, Ajay Sarkar 2-23, Swapnil Singh 2-28) by 197 runs. **PoM:** Sridam Paul.

**QUARTERS LINE-UP**

- Jan 12: Karnataka vs Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh vs Saurashtra.
- Jan 13: Punjab vs Madhya Pradesh, Delhi vs Vidarbha.
- Note: The semis is scheduled for Jan 15 & 16 while the final will be played on Jan 18. All knockouts at BCCI's CoE.

## Rathour appointed SL batting coach

**COLOMBO, PTI:** Former India batting coach Vikram Rathour was on Thursday appointed Sri Lanka's batting coach for the T20 World Cup beginning February 7.

The World Cup would be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

Vikram Rathour

"Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce the appointment of former India Batting Coach Vikram Rathour as the Batting Coach of the Sri Lanka National Team.

"He has been appointed on a consultancy basis, with a primary focus on the team's preparation for the ICC Men's T20I World Cup 2026," Sri Lanka Cricket said in a statement.

Rathour will assume charge on January 18 and will remain with the team until March 10.

Rathour is also a former India international who represented the country in six Tests and seven ODIs. The 56-year-old served as the India batting coach from September 2019 to July 2024. He is a BCCI level 3 coach. In the IPL, he is part of Rajasthan Royals' support staff.

# Accused of sexual assault, shooting coach suspended

NEW DELHI, PTI

A prominent member of India's shooting coaching staff, Ankush Bhardwaj (**in pic**) , has been suspended by the national federation after a minor shooter accused him of sexually assaulting her during the National Championships last month.

NRAI (National Rifles Association of India) confirmed that an FIR has been filed against Bhardwaj in Faridabad. Bhardwaj, a resident of Mohali, has been booked under Section 6 of POCSO Act (aggravated sexual assault), and Section 351(2) of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (criminal intimidation). "NRAI has suspended him and we will issue a show-cause notice," NRAI secretary Rajiv Bhatia told PTI.

"He has been suspended on moral grounds. Now, he has to prove himself innocent. Till the inquiry is not completed, he will not be associated with any coaching activity," he added.

Bhatia said NRAI had recommended Bhardwaj for a place in the 37-strong coaching team after the Paris Olympics in 2024. "It was on the recommendation of the NRAI that he was appointed by SAI as one of the coaches. It is a case of sexual harassment which happened in Surajkund," said Bhatia.

According to the FIR filed by the victim, she was targetted last month during the National Championships at the Karni Singh Range.

The girl, who has been training with Bhardwaj since August last year, stated that she was left traumatised by the incident and spoke up in front of her mother on January 1 after being persistently probed.

In her FIR, the 17-year-old has alleged that Bhardwaj used to call her for training at venues such as Mohali, Patiala, Dehradun and Delhi but she would always return home the same day.

However, on the day of the incident, the victim said she went to the Karni Singh Range unaccompanied in a taxi to compete in the Nationals. The girl said that when she was about to leave for home after finishing her competition, the coach asked her to stay back to analyse her performance.

## Jayaram's late strike in ITFC victory

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Kumar Jayaram's 83rd-minute goal sealed the deal for Income Tax FC in their narrow 3-2 win over Stride FC in the BDFA A Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Thursday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

It was Stride FC's Vikupu Swu who scored the opening goal in the 17th minute. However, Akshay KS netted the equaliser in 41st minute for ITFC to go into the half-time interval with a 1-1 score on the board.

Denis Victor Cotter (69th) then put ITFC into the lead, but A S Suhas Ebenzer found the back of the net in the 77th to keep the contest alive for SFC.

With Jayaram netting ITFC's third goal six minutes later, the team did enough to defend the slender lead in the dying moments to emerge victorious.

**Results:** Income Tax FC: 3 (Akshay KS 41st, Denis Victor Cotter 69th, Kumar Jayaram 83rd) bt Stride FC: 2 (Vikupu Swu 17th, AS Suhas Ebenzer 77th); RWF FC: 4 (Rajesh S 29th, 65th, 75th, Prakash Chandar 38th) bt Sree Gajanana FC: 1 (R Robinson 31st); Technico FF: 0 drew with BTM FC: 0.

## Toor to lead in Asian indoors

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Two-time Asian Games gold medallist shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor (**in pic**) will lead a 17-member Indian team in the 12th Asian Indoor Athletics Championships, scheduled to be held in Tianjin, China, from February 6 to 8.

The team will leave for the continental bash on February 3.

Besides Toor, who is also a two-time Asian Championships gold medallist, the team also has promising shot-putter Samardeep Singh Gill.

Toor will be among the favourites to take the top podium spot in Tianjin, given that he has been dominating the Asian Indoor Championships in his event for last several years.

**Squad:** Men: Manikanta Hoblidhar (60m), Tejas Shirse (60m hurdles), J Adrash Ram (high jump), CV Anurag and Shahnawaz Khan (long jump), Praveen Chithravel (triple jump), Samardeep Singh Gill, Tajinderpal Singh Toor (shot put), Tejaswin Shankar (heptathlon).

**Women:** Nithya Gandhe, Abhinaya Rajarajan (60m), Moumita Mondal and Pragyan Prasanti Sahu (60m hurdles), Pooja (high jump), Ancy Sojan and Moumita Mondal (long jump), Yogita (shot put) and KA Anamika (Pentathlon).

# Sindhu continues to impress, Satwik-Chirag march into quarterfinals

KUALA LUMPUR, PTI

Star shuttler PV Sindhu produced an impressive performance, defeating Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki to book her spot in the women's singles quarterfinals but India's challenge ended in the men's singles at the Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament here on Thursday.

Former world champion Sindhu, returning after a long injury lay-off, defeated the eighth-seeded Miyazaki 21-8, 21-13 in 33 minutes.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, will take on third-seeded Japanese Akane Yamaguchi, a three-time world champion, who defeated China's Gao Fang Jie 21-11, 4-21, 21-17 in another match.

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (left) and Chirag Shetty defeated Malaysia's World No. 17 Junaidi Arif and Roy King Yap in the pre-quarterfinals on Thursday. AFP FILE PHOTO

Top men's pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who won a second bronze at World Championships last year, also sailed into the quarterfinals with a 21-18, 21-12 win over Malaysia's World No. 17 Junaidi Arif and Roy King Yap in 39 minutes.

The former world No. 1 Indians, who reached the finals of Hong Kong Open and China Masters in 2025, thus extended their head-to-head record against the Malaysian pair to 4–0. The Asian Games champions will next face the winners of the clash between Chinese Taipei's Chen Zhi Ray/ Lin Yu Chieh and sixth seeds Fajar Alfian/ Fikri Muhammad of Indonesia.

However, it was curtains for ace Indian men's player Lakshya Sen and young Ayush Shetty who both lost at the pre-quarterfinal stage.

Sen, who had broken the three-year jinx of first-round exits in the tournament when he defeated Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh on Wednesday, succumbed in the pre-quarterfinals to Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu 22-22, 15-21 in 53 minutes.

Shetty went down fighting against top seed Shi Yu Qi of China 18-21, 21-18, 12-12 in a 70-minute slugfest.